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Forum on the Involvement of the University of California in Nuclear Testing at Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR DIANE E. WATSON, CHAIRPERSON

**FORUM ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN
NUCLEAR TESTING AT LAWRENCE
LIVERMORE AND LOS ALAMOS
NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

State Capitol
Room 4203
Sacramento, California

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HEARING
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

In the Matter of:)
FORUM ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN)
NUCLEAR TESTING AT LAWRENCE)
LIVERMORE AND LOS ALAMOS)
NATIONAL LABORATORIES)

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1987
10:10 A.M.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Diane Watson, Chairperson

Senator Ken Maddy, Vice Chairman

Senator William Campbell

Senator Dan McCorquodale

Senator Herschel Rosenthal

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT

Senator Art Torres

Assemblyman John Vasconcellos

Assemblyman Tom Bates

Assemblyman Tom Hayden

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Jane Uitti, Consultant

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I'd like to call the hearing to order and wish you a good morning and welcome you to the hearing on the Involvement of the University of California in the Management of the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories. Today's hearing is co-sponsored by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and Assemblyman John Vasconcellos.

I would like to introduce the members that are here at the current time. Over on my far left and your right is Assemblyman Tom Hayden. Next to him is Senator Bill Campbell. Next to him is Senator Ken Maddy. Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, who is a co-sponsor, and Senator Hersch Rosenthal on my right and your left.

I want to thank you and inform the audience and the witnesses that members will come and go during the course of the hearing, which goes from 10:00 to 4:00. We will break somewhere around the noon hour for an hour, hour and fifteen minutes. We'd like to invite the audience to stay with us until the end of the hearing if they may.

Members of the Committee, the various witnesses have asked that, if you can, you would hold questions until the end of the panel. If there is a burning issue you want to raise, then we'll recognize you. But it's a feeling that most of the information will be given during the course of the panel.

I want to extend my special appreciation to the

1 Southern California Federation of Scientists, who suggested
2 the names of the renowned scientists with us today and
3 arranged for them to be here. They went so far as to raise
4 money to be able to bring the witnesses from around the
5 country to take care of the technical assistance that you
6 have in the room today. They worked very hard to bring this
7 issue. I also want to thank the University of California for
8 their cooperation.

9 They say that you can't get out of this world alive.
10 That's why we're here today. This Committee and a large body
11 of internationally respected physicists and nuclear weapons
12 design experts are highly concerned about the continued
13 increase in the numbers of nuclear weapons when the Soviets
14 and the United States already have enough bombs to kill all
15 of us on this planet many times over. Yet we are told that
16 the only two nuclear weapons laboratories in this country,
17 both run under the auspices of the University of California,
18 have policies that oppose a nuclear test ban treaty.

19 The University of California manages the Los Alamos
20 National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore National
21 Laboratory, whose principal mission is nuclear defense. The
22 labs have the responsibility for the design, testing,
23 production, military stockpile surveillance and stockpile
24 retirement of nuclear explosives.

25 The budget for fiscal year 1987 will be about \$1.8
26 billion. The contract with the federal Department of Energy,
27 which is renegotiated every five years, will be before the
28 University Regents in September of this year. The two labs

1 employ roughly 18,000 University of California staff.

2 There has long been debate centering on the
3 University's management of the laboratories. Although a
4 majority of Regents have reapproved the contract each time it
5 has come up, there has never been a consensus among faculty,
6 students or the general public about the appropriateness of
7 the University's involvement.

8 The key issues that will be discussed here today
9 center around several major themes: First, do the labs
10 support the concept of a comprehensive nuclear test ban? If
11 not, why not?

12 Second, to what extent are arguments about the
13 alleged unreliability of surveillance of a nuclear treaty
14 based on scientific fact or to what extent are they based
15 upon political considerations?

16 Third, to what extent do the labs attempt to
17 influence federal policy on nuclear weapons development and
18 testing?

19 Fourth, just what are the labs doing? Are they
20 testing existing weapons for reliability to see if they work
21 or are they developing new Star Wars laser technology? Is
22 what they're doing consistent with the support of the last
23 five presidential administrations for a comprehensive test
24 ban treaty?

25 Fifth, should the management of the labs be under
26 the auspices of a highly respected educational institution
27 like the University of California? If so, should the
28 University and the Legislature have any greater control or

1 oversight over the function and involvement of the
2 laboratories than they currently have?

3 Lastly, should the state's environmental impact laws
4 require that both labs develop environmental impact reports
5 that not only address the safety of nuclear testing and the
6 disposal of nuclear waste and other safety and environmental
7 issues, but also should they address the consequences of the
8 development of nuclear weapons?

9 In case you're not sure what I'm referring to, I'm
10 talking about the consequences of a nuclear holocaust, which
11 I'm sure would affect at least a few Californians.

12 So, you can see that we're here with a very full
13 agenda. We're here as legislators who are interested in the
14 issue and we have with us an exceptional group of
15 internationally-known scientists who will give us technical
16 information on bomb testing and reliability of treaty
17 surveillance. We also have the top officials from the
18 University of California and from the two weapons
19 laboratories to give us a perspective on this highly
20 controversial issue and the relationship with the two
21 laboratories.

22 This is not to be a judgmental hearing and this
23 hearing will not immediately result in any kind of
24 legislation. This is an exploratory hearing. We're trying
25 to get the issue out on the table. The interests of the
26 Health and Human Services Committee and the members of the
27 Legislature is how the relationship of our University of
28 California with lab testing will affect the citizens of

1 California, how their health and safety is involved.

2 So, this might be the first of similar hearings. We
3 might find that we have enough information that we might want
4 to move into public policy. That is still yet undecided.
5 So, that's what our hearing is about and I thank all of you
6 for coming. I'd like now to call on our co-sponsor,
7 Assemblyman Vasconcellos, for a few remarks.

8 ASSEMBLYMAN VASCONCELLOS: I simply want to have us
9 begin the hearing. It seems to me that the University of
10 California is a public institution with the public trust of
11 the people of California and I believe the people have the
12 right to know what is happening and to find out whether in
13 fact the University is operating in a way that is carrying
14 out this public trust. These scientists, who are the
15 experts, are best prepared to advise us and the public about
16 what's happening and the appropriateness of it and I'm here
17 to hear what you have to say.

18 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Senator Campbell.

19 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Just before we begin, Madam
20 Chairwoman. Are we going to stick strictly to the parameters
21 of the role of the University in relation to the labs or are
22 we going to make it much more broad based than that?

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Let me give you a description
24 of how it's structured for today.

25 SENATOR CAMPBELL: I just wondered what the
26 parameters are that we're going to discuss.

27 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: We're going to stick pretty
28 much to the topic that is described in your agenda. The

1 people that are here as witnesses have been given questions
2 that they are pretty much to address. The Committee members
3 certainly will be able to raise comments and questions as we
4 move along.

5 So, I'm sure that the discussion will be as broad as
6 members want it to be.

7 Senator Campbell, let me give you your right name
8 tag -- you're certainly not Senator Royce -- so that members
9 of the public will know who you are.

10 SENATOR CAMPBELL: I'm about two of Senator Royce.

11 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Yes, you're about two of
12 Senator Royce.

13 I would also like to welcome Assemblyman Tom Bates
14 to the panel.

15 Members of the audience and witnesses, we're going
16 to have three panels. The first panel will deal with the
17 history on the University of California's involvement in
18 nuclear testing contracts and its influence on Comprehensive
19 Test Ban negotiations. There are several speakers both from
20 the University and the scientific community.

21 Panel II will deal with the conformity of laboratory
22 operations with national policy priorities.

23 The third panel is recommended changes in the
24 operation of the nuclear weapons laboratories.

25 All of the panels will have witnesses from the UC
26 system and the California Federation of Scientists. There
27 will be an opportunity for some of the witnesses to come back
28 after each panel, if necessary, to maybe rebut something that

1 has gone forward. We will try to stick as much as possible
2 to the agenda so we can get through all of our witnesses in a
3 timely fashion.

4 I'd like to call on first Dr. William R. Frazer,
5 Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs with the
6 University of California.

7 Dr. Frazer.

8 DR. FRAZER: Thank you, Madam Chair, members. I'll
9 do my best on this --

10 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Would you reintroduce yourself.

11 DR. FRAZER: I'm sorry. William Frazer, University
12 of California, Senior Vice Present for Academic Affairs.

13 I'll do my best to present the University's views on
14 this broad topic you have before you today. I will deal with
15 the relationship between the University and the laboratories
16 at Los Alamos and Livermore.

17 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Excuse me, Dr. Frazer. I'd
18 like to also introduce to the audience Senator Dan
19 McCorquodale, who has joined us.

20 Proceed.

21 DR. FRAZER: I believe it would be helpful to your
22 Committee if I described three very important aspects of the
23 relationship: The responsibilities and authorities of the
24 several parties involved, the rationale for the operation of
25 these laboratories by the University, and the means by which
26 the University carries out its contractual responsibilities
27 in managing the labs. The third of those topics I'll save
28 for Panel III in the afternoon.

1 I've given you written testimony. I don't intend to
2 read it to you. I intend just to summarize and pick up some
3 highlights.

4 Let me start by first describing the respective
5 roles of the federal government, the University and the
6 laboratories as they relate to the design, testing,
7 production and stockpile assurance of nuclear weapons. I'll
8 start with the federal government, which owns the
9 laboratories and, of course, funds all the nuclear weapons
10 work done there.

11 My purpose, incidentally, in presenting this to you
12 is so that you have a clear idea of what is within the
13 purview of the University and what is not.

14 The federal government is responsible for policy and
15 for the programmatic requirements in all aspects of nuclear
16 weapons. It discharges the production and deployment aspects
17 of this responsibility through two cabinet-level
18 departments -- the Department of Defense and the Department
19 of Energy.

20 The research, design, development, production,
21 stockpile monitoring, retirement of nuclear weapons is the
22 responsibility of the Department of Energy. The Regents of
23 the University have contracted with the Department of Energy
24 to operate the two weapons design laboratories. This
25 relationship has existed since the time of World War II. The
26 principal basis for the continued relationship is the
27 acknowledgement of the University's role in infusing high
28 standards of research, technical performance and objectivity

1 and in isolating personnel from the politically-driven
2 processes of government. I'll speak further on that subject
3 later.

4 It's the responsibility of the University to manage
5 the laboratories according to our personnel and management
6 policies, to carry out the nuclear weapons program as
7 established by the federal government and to ensure that the
8 laboratories execute the technical programs with the highest
9 possible quality. The staffs of the laboratories are
10 University employees.

11 The University does not establish the goals or the
12 general content of the research and development programs that
13 are performed at the laboratories. This is true for both the
14 nuclear weapons programs and the other programs that the
15 laboratories conduct. The programmatic content is
16 established, at a high level of aggregation, by the federal
17 budget process. The tasks to be done are then defined at a
18 greater level of detail by Department of Energy officials
19 within the broadly-defined mandate of the legislation. The
20 scientific and technical execution is done by the
21 laboratories. Initiative is expected and much flexibility is
22 allowed.

23 The process I just described is not always
24 completely descriptive of how the system works. The
25 laboratories are and are expected to be far more than mere
26 executors of orders. New technical developments made by the
27 laboratories have often led to new weapons systems of
28 qualitatively different capability. But the role of the

1 laboratories is to develop and offer innovative technology
2 options, not to make policy. The decisions related to
3 ultimate deployment or ultimate supportive decisions as to
4 which research programs will be pursued are eventually not
5 the laboratories.

6 Let me now proceed to the second topic of my
7 presentation, the involvement of the University of
8 California. As I mentioned previously, this involvement
9 dates back many decades. First let me present a few facts
10 about the relationship.

11 The University has managed the laboratories since
12 their inception -- Los Alamos in 1942, Livermore in 1952.
13 The initial involvement was the fact that it's the University
14 that manages the laboratories is largely a historical fact
15 that J. R. Oppenheimer and E. O. Lawrence were professors at
16 the University of California.

17 The current combined budgets of the two laboratories
18 exceeds 1.8 billion per year. Somewhat over half of this is
19 weapons related.

20 The management fee received by the University
21 amounted to \$7.3 million in fiscal year '86. It's negotiated
22 as compensation for management expenses incurred by the
23 University. In other words, the University budget does not
24 profit from the relationship. Or to put it more clearly, the
25 University is not in this for the money.

26 The association of the University and the weapons
27 labs is not without controversy, as I don't need to tell you.
28 The appropriateness of the relationship has been the subject

1 of numerous inquiries and reports and was most recently
2 discussed and very thoroughly discussed by the Board of
3 Regents of the University over the course of about a year
4 before they decided last September to seek renewal of the
5 contract.

6 In their consideration of continuing the
7 association, the Regents of the University have emphasized
8 that the chief reason for doing so is public service, one of
9 the missions of the University. It is their belief that the
10 University serves an important national interest through its
11 management of the laboratories and through its oversight of
12 the conduct of various research programs, including national
13 security.

14 The University performs this public service in
15 managing the laboratories in such a way that their programs
16 and personnel are of excellent quality. The University
17 brings to the laboratories the tradition of debate and
18 intellectual questioning by providing an environment in which
19 the scientists of the laboratories provide policymakers with
20 a source of independent technical advice.

21 The Regents are keenly aware that the association is
22 not without adverse effects. Some criticize the University
23 for its association with weapons of mass destruction. Others
24 assert that it's simply not the job of a great university to
25 be involved in activities so far from the mainstream of
26 University activities and that such involvement inevitably
27 hinders the attainment of the University's principal goals.

28 In their most recent consideration of the

1 University-laboratory relationship in September of '85 the
2 Regents voted to enter into negotiations for extension of the
3 contract for five years. Again, the primary consideration
4 was the service that the University provides to the nation.

5 At that time the Regents also expressed the desire
6 for greater collaboration among the campuses and the
7 laboratories. Collaboration is beneficial in many ways to
8 both. The laboratories have unmatched facilities and broad
9 scientific and technical expertise; while the campuses
10 contribute not only their outstanding faculty, but also
11 students.

12 I would like to conclude this part of my comments by
13 quoting from the report of a committee that was established
14 in December 1978 by the federal government to consider
15 whether satisfactory alternatives were available in the event
16 that the University should decide not to continue the
17 relationship. That committee found -- and I quote:

18 "It is of the utmost importance
19 that the U.S. retain, in the
20 crucial and controversial area
21 affecting nuclear deterrence,
22 people who are at once technically
23 outstanding and as independent as
24 possible from bureaucratic and
25 political restraints on the
26 expression of unpopular views. The
27 combination of the University,
28 laboratory and relevant government

1 management has served this end to
2 date. We believe this combination
3 should be preserved."

4 I'll continue my remarks in the afternoon.

5 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. Frazer.

6 I would now like to call up Dr. Paul White from the
7 Center for National Security Studies, Los Alamos (sic)
8 National Laboratory.

9 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Madam Chair, did you want to wait
10 until the whole panel has finished before we ask questions?

11 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: We would prefer to do it that
12 way unless there's something that --

13 Let me correct my pronunciation. Los Alamos.

14 Dr. White.

15 DR. WHITE: I'm Dr. Paul C. White, Associate
16 Director of the Center for National Security Studies at Los
17 Alamos National Laboratory.

18 Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it's a
19 pleasure to be here today with my colleagues to tell you a
20 little bit about certain aspects of the nuclear weapons
21 program conducted at the national laboratories operated for
22 the Department of Energy by the University of California.

23 In particular, I should like to review from the
24 laboratories' point of view how it is that these laboratories
25 have derived their responsibilities in this area of such
26 great national importance. I shall strive to make clear to
27 you those areas of responsibilities that are sharply defined
28 for the laboratories by United States policy and law and

1 those areas in which the laboratories exercise their
2 respective technical judgments about how best to meet these
3 responsibilities.

4 In order to do this, I shall first address my
5 remarks to a brief outline of the United States national
6 security policy and the role it defines for nuclear weapons.
7 Then I shall describe how the Congress has in turn defined
8 very specific actions in the implementation of this policy to
9 be the responsibilities of the Department of Energy national
10 laboratories, including Los Alamos and Livermore.

11 Finally, I shall provide a broad outline of the
12 research, development and testing programs set up by the
13 laboratories in order to fulfill these assigned
14 responsibilities.

15 My colleague, Dr. Brown, will then elaborate
16 somewhat on more details of these programs; particularly as
17 they relate to nuclear weapons. I hope that you will find
18 these remarks helpful during your deliberations.

19 I shall begin by observing that there are, of
20 course, many facets of national security. In addition to its
21 defense or military aspects, U.S. security clearly involves
22 such other areas as economic strength and the quality of the
23 education programs through which young people are prepared
24 for life in this country. We concentrate today, however, on
25 the defense aspects of U.S. national security policy and we
26 note that a principal goal of this policy has long been the
27 deterrence of conflict. Since the advent of nuclear weapons
28 some forty years ago it has, of course, been an overriding

1 concern to deter nuclear conflict in particular.

2 Safe, secure, reliable and effective nuclear weapons
3 are central to success in achieving this goal of deterrence.
4 The United States policy has developed over the years a set
5 of requirements for the nuclear forces necessary to implement
6 the various objectives of this deterrent policy. These
7 include, of course, the deterrence of general nuclear war.
8 They also include the coordinated deployment of nuclear
9 forces together with conventional forces to deter
10 conventional conflict.

11 The implementation of this particular U.S. policy
12 objective is seen most clearly in the European theater, where
13 so-called tactical nuclear forces are used in combination
14 with NATO conventional forces to offset certain foreign power
15 advantages in conventional forces. Our national security
16 policy has so far been successful in each of these areas.

17 United States policy has, however, consistently
18 looked beyond the status quo. A major goal of current and
19 past policy has been to look toward a future with less
20 reliance on nuclear weapons. In various ways every
21 administration with responsibility for nuclear weapons has
22 pursued this goal. Each has defined a set of arms control
23 objectives to reduce the likelihood of nuclear conflict and
24 to limit the numbers of nuclear weapons.

25 Some administrations have sought to enhance the
26 capabilities of conventional forces in order to provide
27 alternative means to deal with possible confrontations. The
28 current administration has encouraged research into the

1 possibility for defensive technologies to reduce the threats
2 posed by nuclear weapons. Over the years the Department of
3 Energy laboratories has been called upon to support each of
4 these aspects of U.S. national security policy.

5 None of these laboratory responsibilities is so
6 carefully and explicitly defined by congressional action as
7 those in support of the national policy of nuclear
8 deterrence. To illustrate the nature of this legislative
9 assignment, let me call to your attention some specific
10 language used with the National Defense Authorization Act for
11 the current fiscal year 1987. I'll be quoting fairly
12 liberally from the document and I won't bother to identify
13 explicitly where I'm quote. But the sense is always accurate
14 and I will submit a written copy for the record which will
15 identify those quotations. To begin with -- and I quote:
16 "The Department of Energy is responsible for all aspects of
17 nuclear weapon activities except those of the Department of
18 Defense."

19 It is explicitly noted further that in pursuit of
20 these activities, the laboratories shall conduct "...
21 research and development programs for weapons..."
22 Furthermore, the authorization requires that these weapons
23 programs shall include "... research, development,
24 engineering, testing and production of nuclear weapons;
25 maintenance of reliable weapons for their stockpile lives;
26 and the retirement and disposal of nuclear weapons from the
27 stockpile..."

28 Quoting further, "The objectives of the research,

1 development and testing effort are to explore and provide new
2 technologies necessary to maintain U.S. nuclear deterrent
3 forces and to maintain a unique national capability to
4 design, test and monitor the U.S. nuclear arsenal for
5 reliability, safety, security and effectiveness ..."

6 The congressional language goes on specifically to
7 charge the laboratories to continue conceptual studies on
8 certain authorized new weapon systems such as, for example,
9 the warhead for the new small ICBM.

10 Looking further towards the future, the laboratories
11 are specifically charged to conduct "... research on the
12 feasibility of innovative applications of nuclear technology
13 that may eventually be important." One particular example in
14 this area is the work in support of the Strategic Defense
15 Initiative. This kind of longer range research serves, in
16 addition, to guard the United States against the possibility
17 of technological surprise by an adversary.

18 The Congress goes on to detail the nature of the
19 nuclear testing program in support of these broader programs.
20 The laboratories, together with the Department of Energy, are
21 to conduct a number of nuclear device tests during fiscal
22 year 1987 and explicitly to prepare for testing in future
23 years. These nuclear tests are expressly to be related to
24 "proof-of-concept", "development" "determination of the
25 state-of-the-art", "maintenance of stockpile reliability" and
26 "to the maintenance of testing capabilities."

27 I hope that this brief review of congressional
28 charge to the laboratories helps to make clear how the

1 nuclear weapons laboratories are provided by Congress with
2 very specific policy guidance for the support of U.S.
3 national security.

4 Given this legislative guidance, however, it then
5 becomes the special and unique responsibility of the
6 laboratories to exercise their technical judgment, experience
7 and wisdom in constructing technical programs to carry out
8 their defined areas of responsibility. Let me now briefly
9 describe these broad elements of laboratory programs for
10 research, development and testing in support of national
11 policy.

12 First of all, there is a program to assure
13 continuing confidence in the effectiveness of the existing
14 inventory of nuclear weapons through stockpile sample and
15 non-nuclear testing, supplemented by occasional nuclear
16 experiments and vigorous analysis of all available data. The
17 laboratories implement their assigned responsibility for new
18 weapon systems through specific programs to improve the
19 safety and the security, as well as to upgrade the
20 operational capability of the stockpile.

21 In order to assure that warhead designs will
22 accomplish their assigned objectives, the laboratories
23 conduct programs to assess the effects of nuclear explosives.
24 To a closely related effort, programs are conducted to
25 understand the potential vulnerability of warheads to their
26 intended operational environments. Where problems might
27 exist, design solutions are sought to ensure that warheads
28 will survive to accomplish their assigned missions.

1 In fulfilling these responsibilities to the future,
2 the laboratories have programs defined to explore advanced
3 concepts for the application of nuclear weapons science.
4 Through this effort, the limits of technology are made known
5 and the most advanced capability is made available to support
6 national need. In addition, each of these program areas
7 requires the latest scientific understanding derived from
8 vigorous research in such key fundamental areas as materials
9 science, high explosives science, computational science and a
10 whole spectrum of fundamental scientific research.

11 The weapons development programs that I've just
12 described deserve a bit of elaboration in the context of this
13 hearing. In the responsible conduct of these programs, the
14 nuclear weapons laboratories maintain a clearly defined set
15 of goals.

16 New weapon designs must strive to meet criteria for
17 military performance that are set in consultation between
18 military planners and laboratory representatives
19 knowledgeable about the limits of nuclear weapon design
20 capability. But these criteria are only approached to the
21 extent permitted by the additional requirements of nuclear
22 safety and security.

23 Furthermore, in attempting to satisfy these
24 objectives, scientists and engineers draw upon all available
25 technical understanding to ensure that weapons are designed
26 for maximum operational reliability and maximum stockpile
27 life.

28 In addition, I should like to point out that these

1 programs of research and development of nuclear weapons rest
2 on a solid foundation of classical scientific method. That
3 is, each of the elements necessarily involves both
4 theoretical and experimental work. Each program area is
5 based on vigorous fundamental research in relevant technical
6 disciplines.

7 The understanding derived from this research is then
8 applied to appropriate areas of weapons technology. To
9 remain scientifically sound, these programs of applied
10 research cannot be separated from experimental validation,
11 including carefully chosen underground experiments.

12 In this connection, it then becomes an additional
13 responsibility for these scientific institutions to make
14 policymakers aware of any and all technical risks associated
15 with testing limitations. It is then the responsibility of
16 the policymakers to assess the trade-offs between these
17 technical risks and the perceived benefits to be derived from
18 such possible limitations.

19 In conclusion, let me remind you of an additional
20 element of modern scientific method. Science requires that
21 new ideas, new theories, new interpretations of experiments
22 all must be exposed to critical review by others. Out of
23 this cycle of theory, experiment and peer review science
24 develops new understanding and finds better solutions to old
25 problems.

26 Nuclear weapons science is no different in this
27 regard than any other science. Careful technical research
28 and development programs, including occasional underground

1 nuclear experiments and combined with a technical review
2 process assures the high standards of excellence to be
3 expected from laboratories associated with the University of
4 California.

5 These standards of excellence also assure the
6 quality of support for the U.S. national security policy of
7 of nuclear deterrence so that at the same time the other
8 policy goals of reducing our reliance on nuclear weapons can
9 be pursued.

10 Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak
11 with you this morning. At the appropriate time I'd be happy
12 to participate in any questions.

13 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. White.

14 I'd like to now call on Dr. Paul S. Brown, Assistant
15 Associate Director for Arms Control with the Lawrence
16 Livermore National Laboratory.

17 DR. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chairman. My name is
18 Paul Brown. I'm with the Lawrence Livermore National
19 Laboratory.

20 You introduced us earlier, some of us, as
21 administrators from the weapons laboratories. Indeed, that
22 we are. But I would also like to emphasize that Dr. White
23 and I are also scientists with years of experience in the
24 weapons program. We'd be happy to answer any questions later
25 along those lines. I will be talking about nuclear weapons
26 research and development and the role of nuclear testing.

27 In recent years there have been increasing pressures
28 for more restricted limits on nuclear testing, including a

1 Comprehensive Test Ban. There is a widespread perception
2 that nuclear testing fuels the arms race. I disagree with
3 this perception. But because this perception exists, more
4 restrictive test limitations can have political benefits
5 primarily by allaying the fears that people and nations have
6 about the threat of nuclear war. In assessing these
7 benefits, we must also consider the potential costs.

8 Dr. White has already gone into the national policy
9 aspects with respect to weapons. I will not repeat what he
10 said except to say that restrictive test limitations cannot
11 be achieved without incurring technical costs, which could
12 threaten the credibility of our nuclear weapons. The loss of
13 credibility could result in severe political costs as well.

14 It is the difficult responsibility of the federal
15 government to weigh the advantages and costs of nuclear test
16 limitations. It is the responsibility of the weapons
17 scientists and the laboratories to advise the government on
18 the technical costs of more restrictive test limitations and
19 it is the responsibility of the University to foster an
20 environment in which the laboratories can provide technical
21 advice independent of political pressures.

22 In the remainder of my presentation I will discuss
23 the potential impacts of test limitations on nuclear
24 technology.

25 There are four fundamental reasons why we do nuclear
26 tests. First, to maintain confidence in the existing
27 stockpile; second, to modernize the stockpile for improved
28 safety, security, survivability and effectiveness; third, to

1 assess the vulnerability of weapons to the nuclear threat
2 environment posed by the weapons of our adversaries; and,
3 fourth, to avoid technological surprise by maintaining the
4 scientific judgment necessary to assess the significance of
5 real or claimed advances in weapons technology, both nuclear
6 and non-nuclear.

7 I will address these four reasons in order. First
8 of all, stockpile reliability.

9 Within the constraints of the military requirements,
10 the weapons in the stockpile and currently under development
11 have been conservatively designed to avoid as best possible
12 the adverse effects of aging. Correcting a problem in the
13 stockpile is extremely expensive and time consuming.
14 Scientists and engineers strive to make their designs durable
15 and robust against all foreseeable conditions encountered in
16 the course of a weapon's existence.

17 Nuclear weapons, however, are complex mechanisms
18 made of highly reactive materials and sometimes of necessity
19 they include materials of limited lifetimes. Because of
20 these characteristics, changes have occurred in stockpiled
21 weapons that have raised the question of whether a weapon
22 would perform as designed. In most cases scientists have
23 been able to assess and fix these problems without nuclear
24 tests. In doing so, however, they drew upon technical
25 judgment that was based on years of experience in nuclear
26 design testing.

27 Nuclear tests, however, have been necessary to fix
28 problems. Since 1958 one-third of all weapon designs placed

1 in the stockpile have required post-deployment nuclear tests
2 to fix design problems. In three-fourths of these cases the
3 problems were discovered only because of the ongoing nuclear
4 testing and additional tests were required to confirm that
5 the fix was satisfactory. In some cases problems could have
6 been solved without nuclear testing, but only at considerable
7 expense or with significant uncertainties in weapon
8 performance.

9 In 1958 to '61 the U.S. and Soviet Union observed a
10 moratorium on nuclear testing. In effect it was a
11 Comprehensive Test Ban. When certain weapon systems
12 developed during the moratorium were finally tested, we
13 experienced a number of failures. Even modern weapon systems
14 considerably newer than those developed during the moratorium
15 had problems that have been identified and resolved only by
16 nuclear testing.

17 In one case -- that of the W68 warhead for the
18 Poseidon submarine launched missile -- chemical decomposition
19 of the high explosive -- we call it HE -- in the fission
20 trigger necessitated a change to a more chemically stable HE,
21 which is a major design change which required a nuclear test
22 to certify that the new design would perform properly.

23 In this case we could have solved the problem by
24 rebuilding the weapon every five years with the same HE that
25 was deteriorating at tremendous cost to the taxpayer and we
26 chose not to do so. We instead chose the most cost-effective
27 and technically sensible solution.

28 In another case a final test of a weapon at its

1 specified low temperature extreme, a weapon that had already
2 gone to the stockpile, resulted in only a small fraction of
3 the expected yield. It was a dud. It necessitated a design
4 change and another proof test.

5 It has been argued that nuclear weapons can be
6 designed to be more robust to the effects of aging. They can
7 be. However, it must be recognized that in specifying the
8 requirements for new nuclear warheads, the Department of
9 Defense prepares a set of military characteristics, known
10 otherwise as MCs, that define the requirements. These
11 requirements include first and foremost nuclear safety and
12 then in order of priority size and weight, plutonium
13 dispersal safety, yield and so on.

14 In the event that compliance with the MCs leads to a
15 design conflict, the Department of Defense requires that
16 priorities be observed in the order that I just listed.

17 There is an MC for stockpile endurance and
18 replicability; but it is spelled out to be a desirable goal
19 as opposed to a requirement, contingent on meeting all the
20 other MCs.

21 I'll now address stockpile modernization.

22 The global strategic balance is constantly changing.
23 New technologies and developments, both nuclear and
24 non-nuclear, can weaken the credibility and survivability of
25 the U.S. deterrent. They may also enhance credibility and
26 survivability.

27 The tension between these two effects leads to a
28 dynamic deterrent relationship among nations. In turn, this

1 can lead to changes in mission requirements for our nuclear
2 forces or to changes in delivery systems, which might require
3 either modifying existing warheads or developing new ones.

4 For example, Soviet missile accuracies are
5 constantly improving, putting our land-based missile force at
6 even greater risk from a first strike. We can use a number
7 of technological solutions to enhance the survivability of
8 our land-based missiles, including new systems that require
9 new warheads.

10 One solution is to deploy mobile land-based missiles
11 such as the Midgetman missile. To enhance its mobility and
12 increase its survivability, the Midgetman must be
13 lightweight; which in turn limits its ability to carry
14 warheads, limits its throw-weight.

15 Because the Midgetman may have to travel over rough
16 roads or rough country, its warhead must be designed to
17 withstand long-term vibration environments. In addition,
18 because of potential access by the public to deployment
19 areas, its warhead must have appropriate safety and security
20 features.

21 There is an ongoing debate in Congress now as to how
22 large the Midgetman should be, whether it should carry a
23 single warhead or multiple warheads. The debate is still
24 going on. The ultimate choice of a warhead for the Midgetman
25 awaits resolution of this debate and nuclear testing will be
26 necessary to develop that warhead.

27 I'd like to point out that the Midgetman missile is
28 a favorite weapon system of most of the arms control

1 advocates in Congress and some people have even dubbed it the
2 Congressman missile.

3 The safety and security record of the U.S. stockpile
4 is excellent. This success is due in large part to our
5 continuing efforts to design safe and survivable warheads and
6 to modernize the stockpile by incorporating new safety and
7 security features into new and existing weapons. I'd like to
8 point out that only one-third of our stockpiled weapons have
9 these modern safety and security features.

10 I'd like to emphasize that no weapon accident has
11 ever produced any nuclear yield. However, in two overseas
12 airplane crashes the high explosive in the weapons reacted
13 violently, dispersing plutonium -- which is an extremely
14 toxic material -- into the vicinity of the crashes. There
15 was no nuclear yield. But cleanup of the plutonium to
16 acceptable levels was extremely expensive and the political
17 consequences of these accidents were quite serious.

18 To avert such problems Livermore and Los Alamos
19 scientists developed a new and sensitive high explosive that
20 is now entering the stockpile in a variety of weapon systems.
21 Insensitive high explosive is extremely difficult to detonate
22 in the event of an accident such as the impact of a stray
23 bullet or an airplane crash. Continued nuclear testing is
24 required to fully include insensitive high explosive in the
25 stockpile.

26 Nuclear effects testing and survivability.

27 A very important part of the U.S. nuclear testing
28 program and a responsibility of the Defense Nuclear Agency is

1 to test the effects of nuclear weapons on a vast array of
2 military equipment. Of particular concern are the
3 non-nuclear components of our strategic weapon systems,
4 warning sensors, communication equipment and so on.

5 As in the testing of nuclear weapons, we are
6 frequently surprised by the results of nuclear tests on our
7 equipment; equipment that has been previously subjected to
8 non-nuclear tests. Unexpected results have been observed in
9 effects tests on almost all of our strategic nuclear systems.
10 Tests have revealed changes that had to be made and
11 additional nuclear tests were usually required to certify the
12 survival and proper functioning of these systems.

13 I'll now talk about the maintenance of scientific
14 judgment, which is the problem of keeping people's skills
15 going.

16 Ultimately, the viability of our nuclear deterrent
17 rests on the judgment of our nuclear scientists. They must
18 judge what technological developments by our adversaries
19 might threaten that viability. It is inevitable that future
20 stockpile problems will occur and requirements for new
21 weapons will arise, just as they have in the past.

22 Weapon scientists cannot address the impact of new
23 technologies. They cannot verify that a problem has been
24 properly fixed or certify that a new weapon design will meet
25 its military requirements on the basis of non-nuclear
26 experiments alone, nor can they model with computers all the
27 complex physical processes necessary to predict warhead
28 performance with confidence.

1 Assessment of weapon performance rests on scientific
2 judgment based on nuclear test experience. This judgment
3 takes considerable time to develop, is cultivated by the
4 application of theory and experiment to device design and it
5 is continually refined on the basis of data from nuclear
6 tests.

7 Removing the confirmation provided by tests would
8 result in the overextension of judgment and the reduced
9 credibility of the nation's deterrent. This indeed was the
10 case during the moratorium that existed between 1958 and '61.

11 In conclusion, I would like to say that there are
12 many who view a Comprehensive Test Ban as a top priority arms
13 control measure. I believe that there are other arms control
14 measures which should take precedence. These include major
15 reductions in the most destabilizing weapon systems. Such
16 reductions can be achieved while at the same time introducing
17 more modern weapons which are safer, more secure, more
18 survivable and more stabilizing. This is the approach we
19 should take in Geneva and I believe it will require continued
20 nuclear testing.

21 The issues regarding nuclear testing must be
22 addressed head-on with openness, but with caution. The
23 government has undertaken an important approach to this
24 purpose. We have met four times since last July with the
25 Soviets at the Nuclear Test Experts Meetings in Geneva to
26 discuss the broad range of issues relevant to nuclear
27 testing. I myself participated in the first three of those
28 meetings. Currently, we and the Soviets are trying to

1 develop an agenda for negotiation on nuclear testing. I
2 believe that we can succeed in accomplishing this task.

3 I would like to submit my statement for the record
4 and also an article which I wrote which elaborates more
5 thoroughly on the issues that I've discussed here today. It
6 appeared in a Livermore Laboratory magazine. And an article
7 which is stapled to the back of my written statement that was
8 written by Dr. Michael M. May, who was the director of
9 Livermore from 1965 to '71. His article is entitled "On the
10 Role of the Weapons Laboratories" and it appeared in the
11 Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in June of 1985. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you.

13 Dr. Brown, let me ask that any of you who have
14 written statements, submit them to us so that we can be sure
15 that we have all the information that's been given here for
16 the recorder. Some of you are giving very rapid testimony
17 and it's highly technical and I know our stenographer is
18 having somewhat of a problem keeping up with you.

19 DR. BROWN: I apologize.

20 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Dr. Richard Garwin is with IBM
21 Watson Laboratories.

22 Dr. Garwin.

23 DR. GARWIN: Yes, I'm Richard Garwin and I'm
24 testifying here as an individual. My interest and experience
25 in this field comes from my association with the Los Alamos
26 National Laboratory since 1950, where I helped to build the
27 first hydrogen bomb and also had a lot to do with new
28 techniques of testing.

9 1 Since then I've been a number of terms on the
2 President's Science Advisory Committee and a consultant to
3 every administration including the current one on such
4 matters.

5 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Dr. Garwin, would you pull that
6 microphone closer to you, please.

7 DR. GARWIN: Yes.

8 So, let me just say that I believe that we will have
9 to rely on nuclear weapons for a long time, for many decades,
10 and we will need people who understand them and who are
11 motivated to work with them.

12 That said, though, we do not need nuclear tests to
13 maintain the existing types of nuclear weapons reliable or to
14 adapt them to new delivery means such as the Midgetman
15 missile. Here I disagree with the previous speaker.

16 I think a total ban on nuclear explosion tests is in
17 our interest and can be adequately verified by cooperative
18 seismic means down to a yield less than one kiloton, some
19 one-twentieth of the yield of the first atomic bombs.

20 You've not heard one word in this hearing so far as
21 to why we would want a ban on nuclear testing. So, I have to
22 reveal the dirty secret that our purpose in stopping nuclear
23 tests would be to stop the evolution of the Soviet threat,
24 not of our own; to stop the Soviet Union from developing
25 x-ray laser weapons, for instance, and to impede the
26 acquisition of nuclear weapons by other nations.

27 So, the question is not is stopping nuclear tests in
28 our interest, it is whether it is in our net interests. You

1 have to look at the benefit side as well as the cost side of
2 the market.

3 Now, in this, weapons laboratories and their
4 directors have a real conflict of interest, whether they
5 recognize it or not, in advising on a nuclear test ban. In
6 1978 Harold Agnew, then director of the Los Alamos
7 Laboratory, and Roger Batzel, now director of Livermore,
8 persuaded, according to Dr. Agnew's account, President Carter
9 not to push for a Comprehensive Test Ban treaty. Dr. Agnew
10 takes pride in what he calls the availability of this, quote,
11 "disinterested advice" as a consequence of our system.

12 The University of California selected a director for
13 the Los Alamos Laboratory following Dr. Agnew who in his tour
14 of Washington did not do his duty in presenting the
15 administration's program in a congressional hearing, but
16 substituted instead the Department of Energy program; an
17 action which earned eventually for him a reprimand. But he
18 was nevertheless chosen to head the Los Alamos Laboratory.

19 The laboratories are administered by the University
20 of California, but they take their orders and they get their
21 funds from Washington. The University of California
22 administration gives the labs legitimacy. But if this is not
23 done right, the administration will reduce the integrity of
24 the University and of the State of California.

25 Whether it has been done right or not is not my
26 field of expertise. Doing it right though means to assure
27 that the labs are operated in the national interest, not just
28 in the interest of the Department of Energy. It means

1 ensuring that all voices are heard, that the materials and
2 the information produced in the laboratories are available to
3 support all options which could be considered by our
4 political leaders.

5 Now, there are some special questions which are
6 involved and one of them, for instance, is whether nuclear
7 explosion tests are necessary to maintain stockpile
8 reliability. Much has been written on this subject, but in
9 my opinion much of it is misleading.

10 I think that one cannot accept what Dr. White said
11 in that we have the highest reliability, highest standards of
12 excellence in our nuclear weapons program and still refer to
13 the sorry state of the nuclear stockpile following the
14 introduction of weapons developed during the moratorium.

15 In my opinion that was irresponsible. Weapons
16 should not be introduced into the stockpile until they have
17 been proof tested in their manufactured version. So, when I
18 talk about continued reliability of stockpiled weapons, I'm
19 talking, of course, about weapons that have had their proof
20 test in the production version.

21 Those weapons do not need nuclear testing, do not
22 receive nuclear testing to ensure that they will continue to
23 work. If you imagine how many nuclear tests are required by
24 nuclear tests alone to demonstrate 99 percent reliability or
25 even 90 percent reliability for the various weapons that we
26 have in stockpile, it is an enormous number.

27 You have heard also that the weapons could be
28 remanufactured when non-nuclear inspection shows that they

1 are deficient and that the cost to the taxpayer would be
2 enormous to remanufacture every five years. Let's see those
3 costs.

4 I had for a long time an argument with the U.S. Navy
5 beginning in 1972. The Navy would not, no matter how much I
6 urged their presentation in congressional testimony, indicate
7 the costs of continuing the operation of our nuclear
8 submarines beyond the 20 or 25-year design life and they said
9 that we could not do this because of hull corrosion and metal
10 fatigue. Eventually in 1978 I received from the Assistant
11 Secretary of the Navy for Research and Development a letter
12 indicating that we have no problems with hull corrosion and
13 metal fatigue and that they would have no problems.

14 So, these questions of how much it costs to
15 remanufacture and what the nuclear weapons establishment
16 would look like without nuclear testing have to be addressed
17 by the experts in this field at the laboratories. If there
18 are studies to this effect, I have not seen them.

19 We have heard that nuclear testing is required so
20 that one can draw on years of experience in nuclear design
21 and tests. These years of experience will not go away,
22 they're not written on the wind. We have recordings and test
23 results. Future weapon designers will have this historical
24 experience as well.

25 Let me give you one example of the negotiation of
26 weapons characteristics among the Department of Energy, the
27 Congress and the Department of Defense.

28 In the 1970's there was a new warhead proposed for a

1 surface-to-air Navy missile. An existing warhead would fit
2 the operating characteristics required, except it was two
3 inches too long to fit into the missile compartment
4 designated for the warhead. The Department of Defense
5 refused to reconfigure the sketch so as to accept the
6 existing warhead and a \$200 million weapon development was
7 undertaken simply because of the bureaucratic rigidity. That
8 is not in the interests of our security no matter how much
9 one may like the expenditure of \$200 million for a warhead.

10 The question of insensitive high explosive. We've
11 known about this for a long time. Only 40 percent of our
12 existing weapons have insensitive high explosive. We've had
13 no limitation on nuclear tests so far. If insensitive high
14 explosive incorporation into the stockpile is so important
15 that we cannot accept a test ban limiting Soviet development,
16 why have we not hastened to put it into the stockpile
17 already? Why are we delaying its advent so that it can be
18 entered into a stockpile in the routine evolution of these
19 capabilities?

20 Finally, when we launch people into space, we do not
21 redesign the people. We package them so they can be sent up
22 and brought down safely for the most part. So it is with the
23 Midgetman missile. The W87 warhead is already tested. It
24 could be adapted to the Midgetman missile. Depending upon
25 the basing mode, the Midgetman would have to require
26 packaging of this warhead to bring its vibration shock
27 temperature surges down to those for which the warhead have
28 been designed.

1 One might denigrate or perhaps for that matter honor
2 the missile by called it the Congressman missile, but it
3 certainly doesn't help rational discourse about it.

4 You do not hear on the Midgetman missile the most
5 appropriate way of basing that missile, which is to put it in
6 silos. Why don't you hear it? Because it would be too
7 cheap. It would be too big a competitor under those
8 circumstances putting a single warhead missile with the
9 existing MX warhead in a silo so that it would be
10 self-protecting so that to destroy one warhead on our side
11 would require the expenditure by the Soviet Union of what is
12 generally reckoned as at least two more heads on their side.

13 The laboratories are not doing their job in my
14 opinion when they do not make studies to show that such a
15 weapon could be obtained soon and at low cost with existing
16 components even if we lost the interest which comes from the
17 development of new technology.

18 Now, the Soviet bombs, I have no idea whether they
19 will survive without non-nuclear inspection and
20 remanufacture. I think we can count on the Soviet Union to
21 monitor and maintain their own stockpile. I think that we
22 count on our nuclear weapon establishment to do that, also.

23 The former director of Los Alamos previously
24 maintained -- that is, Harold Agnew -- that he did not need
25 nuclear testing to maintain stockpile reliability, but only a
26 sufficient amount of money for a non-nuclear inspection
27 program and exemption from the Occupational Safety and Health
28 Act.

1 Eventually, Dr. Agnew changed his public view. But
2 that was not because he changed his technical judgment. It
3 was because he felt that the availability of money for these
4 programs and priority would not be assured without a costly
5 nuclear testing program.

6 In answer to the question which was given to me, the
7 second question: Apart from bomb-driven beam weapons, do I
8 foresee the day when bomb production will become strictly an
9 industry devoid of the need for innovative design.

10 There's not much you can do in innovative design if
11 you are not having nuclear tests to verify it. I would
12 object to the introduction into stockpile of a nuclear weapon
13 which had not been tested. But that does not mean that our
14 nuclear weapons will turn into green cheese. If we monitor
15 them, we can keep them reliable, effective nuclear weapons.
16 If we do it right and we choose our weapons carefully -- for
17 instance, the single warhead Midgetman missile in silos --
18 that and a total ban on nuclear tests can hasten the day when
19 we have vastly fewer nuclear weapons in the world -- maybe a
20 thousand on our side instead of the current 30,000 or so --
21 and when additional nations will see great barriers to the
22 acquisition of these terribly destructive capabilities.

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you.

24 Dr. Ray Kidder, Lawrence Livermore National
25 Laboratories.

26 DR. KIDDER: My name is Ray Kidder. I'm employed at
27 the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and I've been there for
28 about 30 years.

1 My history with the laboratory is that initially I
2 was involved with the design and physics of nuclear weapons
3 and in particular I was used by the laboratory to advise the
4 laboratory as to the operability of the nuclear weapons we
5 acquired -- that is, we meaning Livermore -- acquired in the
6 Operation Dominick in 1962 and report to the then director of
7 the laboratory, John Foster, as to whether the designers had
8 done their homework properly or not and also as to whether
9 any of these weapons that we were going to -- or these
10 devices, as they're called at that stage, we were going to
11 fire would possibly not work or, on the other hand, what was
12 the one that we were going to fire that would have the very
13 greatest probability of working properly, producing a big
14 bang so that we would start the series off that way. That's
15 the kind of a job I had then.

16 Since that time I've been involved with a number of
17 other programs in the laboratory. But I've kept my hand in
18 the nuclear weapons field. I've advised the laboratories
19 from time to time as to the adequacy of designs of its
20 nuclear weapons and at the present time I'm personally
21 engaged in the design and theory and new ideas for nuclear
22 directed energy weapons, which is the current high priority
23 activity of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. So, that's my
24 background.

25 What I'm going to do is I'm dividing my statement up
26 essentially into two parts, Madam Chairman. The first part
27 which I'm going to give this morning I expect very briefly --
28 I hope very briefly -- has to do with a request that I

1 received from a Congressman to evaluate some of the evidence
2 that the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory had presented to the
3 U.S. Congress in late 1985 having to do with the need to
4 continue nuclear weapons testing in order to maintain the
5 stockpile.

6 I've evaluated the evidence that the Lawrence
7 Livermore Laboratory has submitted -- at least all the
8 evidence that's come to my attention at this time -- and I'm
9 going to talk about that very briefly now. Then this
10 afternoon in the second panel I will try to answer the
11 question: What has all this got to do with the University of
12 California and the State of California?

13 So, with that introduction and sort of outline of
14 what I'm going to do, let me proceed. All of this will be
15 submitted as part of the record.

16 The nuclear weapons laboratories have been relying
17 on a recitation of problems that have been encountered over
18 the years with stockpiled nuclear weapons to support their
19 contention that continued nuclear explosive testing is
20 necessary to maintain confidence in the reliability of the
21 existing stockpile of nuclear weapons.

22 Six examples of such problems were described in an
23 unclassified 1983 study by a Department of Energy contractor
24 entitled "Some Little-Publicized Difficulties with a Nuclear
25 Freeze." This study has received considerable publicity and
26 is commonly referred to as the Rosengren Report, the reason
27 obviously being its author was named Rosengren.

28 The report was submitted into the record of the

1 congressional hearing of September 18, 1985 by Nuclear
2 Weapons Laboratory officials from Livermore. So, that's how
3 it got into the Washington record.

4 At the request then of Congressman Edward J. Markey,
5 Massachusetts, I undertook an evaluation of the Rosengren
6 Report to answer the question he posed to me, which was: Do
7 the examples cited in the Rosengren Report support the thesis
8 that nuclear explosive testing is necessary to maintain
9 confidence in the reliability of the existing U.S. nuclear
10 stockpile of thoroughly tested nuclear weapons?

11 Now, the reason that that was a question of interest
12 to him is described in the letter that he wrote to me, which
13 is very brief. So, if you don't mind, I'd like to read that,
14 assuming I can locate it. Here it is. This letter is dated
15 May 27, 1986. It's addressed to Dr. Ray Kidder. That's me.
16 He says -- this is Congressman Markey now. He says:

17 "Over the past several months,
18 Administration officials have
19 frequently cited an unclassified
20 1983 study by a Department of
21 Energy contractor to substantiate
22 arguments that a Comprehensive Test
23 Ban Treaty would degrade the
24 reliability of the U.S. nuclear
25 stockpile and the credibility of
26 the U.S. deterrent."

27 He goes on to say:

28 "The study, by Jack W. Rosengren

1 of R&D Associates, is titled "Some
2 Little-Publicized Difficulties with
3 a Nuclear Freeze." It argues that
4 judging from past experiences, a
5 ban on the underground testing of
6 nuclear weapons could be expected
7 to severely undercut the capability
8 of the United States to maintain a
9 reliable nuclear weapons stockpile.
10 This study has been submitted into
11 the record of at least three
12 Congressional hearings on the test
13 ban and was the subject of a front
14 page article in the Washington
15 Post."

16 In other words, I want to emphasize strongly that
17 this particular report by Rosengren was used not by
18 Rosengren, who was merely the contractor that did the work
19 for the DOE, but it was used on a number of occasions by the
20 Department of Energy and by officials from the weapons
21 laboratories for the specific purpose of supporting their
22 contention that nuclear testing would need to be continued to
23 maintain confidence in the stockpile. So, this is not just a
24 report off in left field somewhere.

25 Now I'm going back to Representative Markey again.
26 He says:

27 "While I am not a nuclear weapons
28 expert, my own reading of the

1 report has lead me to the
2 conclusion that many of the
3 specific examples cited in the
4 report do not substantiate the
5 overall thesis, insomuch as they
6 relate cases in which
7 insufficiently tested warheads were
8 placed into the stockpile (e.g.,
9 during the 1958 to 1961 test
10 moratorium) or cases in which
11 substantial changes were made in
12 the design or materials used in a
13 warhead that necessitated an
14 explosive nuclear test. In any
15 event, it is not clear to me that
16 if any of the specific instances
17 cited a nuclear test was needed to
18 identify and correct the stockpile
19 problem that had arisen."

20 He goes on to conclude:

21 "I would greatly appreciate it if
22 you could review the R&D Associates
23 report and provide me with your own
24 unclassified analysis of its
25 contents. In particular, I would
26 like to know if your review of
27 previous experiences with stockpile
28 problems demonstrates that nuclear

1 explosive testing is necessary to
2 maintain confidence in the
3 reliability of the U.S. nuclear
4 stockpile of existing, thoroughly
5 tested nuclear weapons. Do you
6 believe that there were then and
7 are today alternative means
8 available to identify and correct
9 stockpile problems as they arise?"

10 Now, Dr. Garwin has just discussed some of the
11 alternative means available to identify these problems, but
12 let me simply go on and tell you what my evaluation was and
13 the results that I communicated then to Congressman Markey.

14 Now, I must say that he started out by saying he
15 wasn't a nuclear weapons experts, which he's not. My
16 conclusion, having read this letter and having looked at the
17 question that he asked me in some detail, was that he was a
18 very perceptive man indeed. So, let me proceed then to just
19 say a few words about what I found out.

20 Now, my evaluation of this report, the Rosengren
21 Report, that Markey asked me for is here. I'll leave that
22 with you with the rest of the copy of the statement. I want
23 to read just a very short section of this at the beginning of
24 it so you'll know what it's about and the conclusions.
25 It says:

26 "Over the past several months,
27 Administration officials have
28 frequently cited an unclassified

1 '83 study by a Department of Energy
2 contractor to substantiate
3 arguments that a Comprehensive Test
4 Ban Treaty would degrade the
5 reliability of the U.S. nuclear
6 deterrent. The study, by
7 Jack W. Rosengren of R&D
8 Associates, is entitled 'Some
9 Little-Publicized Difficulties with
10 a Nuclear Freeze.'"

11
12 If I'm going too fast, just let me know. When I
13 start reading, I may do that.

14 "It argues that judging from past
15 experiences, a ban on the
16 underground testing ... could be
17 expected to severely undercut the
18 capability of the U.S. to maintain
19 a reliable nuclear weapons
20 stockpile." And so on.

21 "In support of the thesis that a
22 ban on nuclear weapons tests would
23 severely undercut our capability to
24 maintain a reliable stockpile,
25 Rosengren cites difficulties
26 experienced with one tactical
27 nuclear weapon and five nuclear
28 warheads after they were placed in

1 stockpile. They are:

2 "The W45 tactical nuclear
3 weapon

4 "The W47 first Polaris
5 missile warhead

6 "The W52 Sergeant missile
7 warhead

8 "The W56 Minuteman missile
9 warhead

10 "The W58 second Polaris
11 missile warhead

12 "The W68 first Poseidon
13 missile warhead

14 "The question we address in this
15 evaluation is: ..." And this is
16 important, I think, to be accurate
17 about it. "Do the examples cited
18 in the Rosengren Report support the
19 thesis that nuclear explosive
20 testing is necessary to maintain
21 confidence in the reliability of
22 the existing U.S. nuclear stockpile
23 of thoroughly tested nuclear
24 weapons."

25 That's the precise language that was used by
26 Congressman Markey in addressing that question to me.

27 Now I'll simply read the conclusions of this report
28 that I submitted to him.

1 "We conclude ..." and we meaning
2 just me "... that none of the
3 examples cited in the Rosengren
4 Report support the thesis that
5 nuclear explosive testing is
6 necessary to maintain confidence in
7 the reliability of the existing
8 U.S. nuclear stockpile of
9 thoroughly tested nuclear weapons
10 for the following reasons:

11 "No nuclear tests were required
12 either to identify or to correct
13 the problems encountered in
14 stockpile with the W56, W58 and
15 W68. None were indeed performed
16 with the W56 or the W58. A
17 successful 'final development' test
18 of the W68 was conducted which the
19 laboratory responsible for
20 certification of the warhead did
21 not require.

22 "The W45, W47 and W52 were not
23 adequately tested prior to
24 stockpile in the early sixties,
25 largely as a result of the
26 1958-1961 nuclear test moratorium."

27 So, that was my response to Markey having to do with
28 the six examples that he asked me to look at.

1 Now, there were two other examples which came to my
2 attention this time as a result of an inquiry by Frederick
3 Reines, Professor Reines, who is the chairman of the
4 Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee of the University
5 of California. I just want to refer to those two additional
6 examples and then that would finish my statement for this
7 morning.

8 Two additional examples were presented by Roger
9 Batzel in a classified addendum to his testimony at the
10 September 18th congressional hearing I have referred to
11 earlier. At the request of Professor Frederick Reines,
12 chairman of the Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee of
13 the University of California, I included these two additional
14 examples in my evaluation, bringing to eight the total number
15 of examples considered.

16 None supported the thesis stated in Congressman
17 Markey's question. No nuclear tests were required either to
18 identify or correct the problems encountered in stockpile
19 with three of these eight examples -- the 56, 58 and 68.

20 Incomplete testing prior to being stockpiled
21 accounts for the difficulties encountered with the remaining
22 five. Each of these five fall into one of four main ways in
23 which an incomplete testing program has led to unreliable
24 weapons. The four ways are: (a) modifying stockpiled
25 weapons without nuclear proof tests; (b) rushing new weapon
26 designs into the stockpile without thorough testing; (c)
27 failure to test the version of the warhead as it is actually
28 deployed; and (d) failure to test for the effects of the

1 environment the weapon will experience in the stockpile and
2 in actual use.

3 Most of the type (a) and (b) problems occurred
4 during the moratorium as new warhead designs were stockpiled
5 after a less than comprehensive testing program. The
6 distribution of the five weapons among these four categories
7 is as follows: The W45 comes under Russian new weapon
8 design; the W47 likewise; the W52 comes under modifying
9 stockpiled weapons without nuclear proof tests; the W80,
10 which has been referred to, I believe, by Paul Brown comes
11 under (d), the failure to test for the effects of
12 environment -- in that case low temperature -- the weapon
13 will experience in the stockpile and actual use; and,
14 finally, the W84 comes under heading (c), failure to test the
15 version of the warhead as it is actually deployed, which was
16 one of the points that was raised by Dr. Garwin.

17 So that all I want to do then is summarize and say
18 that I believe it's reasonable to assume that the best
19 evidence for the continuation of nuclear testing would
20 normally be the evidence that would be set forth by the
21 weapons laboratories themselves. In other words, since they
22 use these examples to support their allegations as to the
23 necessity for testing, I think it's fair to assume that
24 that's the best evidence that they have.

25 Now, in eight cases out of eight so far -- and I
26 understand that there are a few more that I haven't seen yet,
27 which I'm sure we'll be asked to look at. In eight out of
28 eight so far the best evidence that the weapons labs have

1 been able to come up with simply doesn't prove their point,
2 in my view, and I've given you the reasons why that's so.

3 I'm sorry that this has been somewhat of a technical
4 statement on my part. This afternoon I think I'll get away
5 from that and get down to the University of California more
6 directly and the relationship with the University and the
7 labs and the State of California.

8 But I wanted, first of all, to lay the groundwork to
9 be sure you understood that people have looked at the
10 evidence and don't agree with the conclusions that the
11 weapons laboratories have come to having to do with the need
12 for continued nuclear weapons testing. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: We'll take a moment for the
14 stenographer to change paper. The next person to testify
15 will be Jack Evernden.

16 DR. EVERNDEN: My name is Jack Evernden. I'm a
17 seismologist. I'm presently employed for the U.S Geological
18 Survey, Menlo Park, California. For obvious -- as we all
19 point out, I'm here today as a private citizen and my views
20 are not necessarily those of the U.S. Geological Survey. But
21 as an American citizen with First Amendment rights, I can
22 speak my peace.

23 I guess I should make clear my status here so that
24 my testimony will not be misconstrued. I was a professor at
25 the University of California for 12 years, attaining a full
26 professorship status in the Department of Geology and
27 Geophysics. I must admit for those years I joined in the
28 opinion of virtually every other member of the Academic

1 Senate in not understanding that the University had anything
2 to do whatever with the operation of the labs or why it
3 should. I must admit I have maintained that opinion over
4 recent years.

5 In 1965 I left the University, resigned in order to
6 go to Washington to work on the seismological aspects of a
7 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; because I also admit that from
8 that day to this I have believed it is in the best interests
9 of the United States and the world that we have a
10 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

11 I do not believe any of my technical results are
12 bias. By that, my opinions. I certainly admit that
13 virtually my entire scientific career has been biased by that
14 commitment, because that's practically all I've done for the
15 last 21 years is do research in this area.

16 There are a few questions here that Panel I is
17 assigned to answer and I guess I should give answers to those
18 before making some other comments.

19 The first two questions that bear on seismological
20 matters I'm quite certain would receive the same answer that
21 I'll give from the gentleman to my right here: Do recent
22 recalibrations confirm the early reports of repeated USSR
23 violations of the 150 kiloton threshold test ban treaty? I
24 think both I and David agree they do no such thing. They
25 confirm that the Soviets have not violated the official
26 treaty.

27 The second one is: Do you conclude from the
28 currently available evidence that the USSR cheated on its

1 self-imposed, unilateral, 18-month-long nuclear test
2 moratorium? I'm quite certain David would agree the answer
3 is clear and unequivocal the Soviets have not cheated on that
4 moratorium. They have indeed not tested during that
5 timeframe.

6 From then on the comments get more specific to the
7 issue here. Even though the debate today or the discussion
8 today has appeared to be largely based on whether the U.S.
9 should or should not -- or the arguments for and against a
10 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, everything here today is still
11 fundamentally to link the role of the University in its
12 oversight status and from our -- or at least from mine -- has
13 the University performed in that status.

14 It seems to me from the discussions today between
15 the gentlemen at the two ends of this table that if it is the
16 role of the University or the University conceives its role
17 as that of public interest and that is why it is continuing
18 supervision of the laboratories, it has clearly failed in
19 that study. Because with the variety of dispute which is
20 given here today -- which is not a dispute. It's a dispute
21 which has continued over the years -- it seems to me that any
22 oversight committee should have long since held intense
23 hearing on these issues to try and decide whether the
24 gentlemen immediately to my right or somebody such as Ray
25 Kidder are or are not correct in this issue. These are vital
26 and strong issues and in my mind they have directly to do
27 with the oversight role of the University.

28 As I say, I don't think the University has ever

1 performed its oversight role properly and I don't think it's
2 performing it today properly.

3 Getting to my role here relative to a Comprehensive
4 Test Ban Treaty is my role as a seismologist and do I have
5 comments on whether the laboratories have or have not made,
6 if you will -- have the statements they've made on
7 seismological matters been those strictly controlled by the
8 science of the subject or have they been in some sense, at
9 least in my interpretation, self-serving.

10 On the issue of the yield threshold treaty, I think
11 all of their statements since 1981 are true. I do so because
12 I've agreed with them since 1971 and both they and I would
13 agree that there is no evidence that the Soviets have
14 violated the yield threshold treaty.

15 I compliment them -- I really do -- on the
16 forthrightness and directness of those statements over the
17 past few years. They've been against those of the government
18 and they've been against those of some strong people in
19 Washington and the laboratories have voiced what I believe is
20 a correct technical position on that point and have done so
21 in spite of, I don't doubt, pressures from Washington.

22 On some of the other issues that get more
23 sophisticated relative to a test ban treaty, I must admit I
24 do have questions. Several years ago two gentlemen at the
25 Laboratory came to my office and when I asked them why they
26 were putting their names on a document that they attempted to
27 publish in a science magazine and which I was able to thwart
28 there, but was subsequently published in Nature, these

1 gentlemen, who had nothing to do with the research that went
2 into that paper, asserted that they were forced to put their
3 names on that document.

4 That document was intended to document the reality
5 of a certain mode of evading seismological capabilities under
6 a test ban treaty. At the time of publication of that
7 document we had already circulated a solution to that
8 supposed technical problem. It was a concept of multiple
9 explosions. The entire concept of multiple explosions has
10 since been abandoned because it is easy to detect the fact of
11 multiple explosions and know that it is a multiple explosion,
12 not a single explosion and most certainly not an earthquake.

13 There are a couple of other more recent examples. I
14 really don't think there's any point in going into the
15 details. I will if you wish. But they, again, are ones
16 which, in my opinion, are not forthright statements of the
17 scientific status of seismology. They tend to raise
18 objections which I think are technically invalid, have been
19 demonstrated to be invalid in the literature.

20 So, I must say that I do not feel that the labs have
21 in truth been completely forthcoming on these matters. I
22 mean, I suspect that some of them feel over the years that I,
23 Jack Evernden, have had my emotional biases toward a
24 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty get in the way of my technical
25 judgment. I don't believe so. Everything I've ever done on
26 this subject has gone through extensive peer review by
27 American scientists and has been published after that peer
28 review.

1 So, on the other side, I'm not sure that they always
2 are statements or ones which appear to make the negotiation
3 of a test ban treaty impossible. I find it hard to believe
4 that always they would come up that way.

5 I personally have not. I have published things in
6 the scientific literature which have raised serious
7 objections to the negotiability of a Comprehensive Test Ban
8 Treaty. I've got to admit that in subsequent years I've kept
9 on working and have now eliminated those objections.

10 But one of the first and large objections that has
11 been raised was the possibility of hiding an explosion signal
12 in that of a large earthquake. I think I can fairly say that
13 the first discussion of that in detail in the scientific
14 literature was in an article by myself and that nobody else
15 has ever discussed it in detail. It was true, it is real and
16 it was a profound problem up until the time we figured out
17 the solution. We now have the solution. That solution has
18 also been published in the open literature.

19 I must admit I have the greatest respect for the
20 people who work at the Livermore Laboratories. I certainly
21 have some differences of opinion with them. Thank you very
22 much.

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you for your testimony.

24 Now I would like to call upon the final member of
25 Panel I, Dr. Herbert York, Director of the Institute on
26 Global Conflict and Cooperation at UC San Diego.

27 Dr. York.

28 DR. YORK: Thank you, Senator. Most of the

1 discussion this morning has been on technical issues. I'd
2 like to turn to some of the policy issues and political
3 issues that are involved here. These, of necessity, are
4 informed by technical questions; but they're not totally
5 determined by such factors. There are a great many other
6 things that enter in as well.

7 Also, the reason that I'm here this morning is I'm a
8 University witness. But it's not connected with my current
9 University activity, it's connected with the fact that long
10 ago I was the director of the Livermore Laboratory and much
11 more recently and I think more importantly for this morning I
12 worked with the Carter administration in the White House, the
13 Pentagon and the State Department all during the Carter
14 administration on a variety of issues mainly having to do
15 with arms control and I was President Carter's chief
16 negotiator on the Comprehensive Test Ban for the last two
17 years of the Carter administration. So, I had an opportunity
18 to see the interplay of all kinds of factors at the political
19 level and in the way that they determine the course of
20 events.

21 Basically, the basic facts that may not be
22 appreciated are that there never was a consensus in the
23 Carter administration in favor of a test ban. The President
24 himself was in favor of a test ban, but there never was a
25 consensus to that effect. In fact, there was a great deal of
26 opposition.

27 The Department of Energy, which operates the
28 laboratories and is responsible for the nuclear weapon

1 stockpile at the federal level, was almost universally
2 opposed to a test ban. The Secretary of Energy was James
3 Schlesinger. He was flatly opposed to a test ban. The
4 Acting Assistant Secretary for National Security Affairs, who
5 has already been mentioned, was Donald Kerr. He was flatly
6 opposed to test ban, testified to that effect before the
7 House Armed Services Committee; the majority of which were
8 also opposed to a test ban and encouraged his testimony,
9 including the democratic chairman of that committee.

10 At lower levels it was the same thing. I remember
11 one of the real crusaders against a test ban was a staffer
12 named Julio Torres, who made it his mission to make sure that
13 somehow it didn't happen.

14 In the Department of Defense the uniformed military,
15 especially those parts concerned with nuclear matters, were
16 uniformly opposed to a test ban. The Joint Chiefs of Staff
17 studied the problem and concluded unanimously that they were
18 opposed to a test ban.

19 The director of the Defense Nuclear Agency, an
20 Admiral Robert Monroe, again was absolutely dedicated to
21 opposition to a test ban and from my perspective practically
22 did nothing else except to work within the administration to
23 make sure that it didn't happen.

24 In the White House itself the picture was somewhat
25 better, but not totally different. The President's science
26 advisor was in favor of a test ban. That was Frank Press.
27 He organized a committee to study the question, which
28 included myself and several others here and also the

1 laboratory directors.

2 The President's National Security Advisor, Dr.
3 Ruginski, did not support a test ban and neither did a number
4 of other persons working in the White House in the National
5 Security Council staff.

6 So, there was very large-spread opposition to a test
7 ban. There were people who were just dedicated to making
8 sure that it didn't happen. They were opposed to it for
9 fairly general reasons. They believed that -- there were
10 really three. One was that modernization was necessary,
11 especially as long as we're depending on nuclear tests; that
12 despite all the work that had been done on seismology, the
13 question of whether or not the Soviets could cheat was not
14 resolved to their satisfaction; and they also did not believe
15 that a nuclear test ban really contributed to the ultimate
16 goal of maintaining peace and security.

17 I mentioned that Secretary Schlesinger was one of
18 those who was most adamantly opposed. As part of his
19 campaign to try and persuade the President to his views, he
20 arranged for a meeting of the laboratory directors. That's
21 been mentioned here this morning and it's been mentioned
22 almost every time there's a hearing in the state of
23 California on this subject.

24 I wasn't there, but the laboratory directors to my
25 knowledge gave a straightforward statement to the President
26 concerning their views with respect to the impact of a test
27 ban on the laboratories and on their activities.

28 Harold Agnew was the director of Los Alamos at that

1 time and he was one of the people who attended. He has said
2 that the President, as a result of that meeting, turned
3 around on the issue and withdrew the treaty. That's
4 absolutely false. It's simply a case of faulty memory on the
5 part of Harold Agnew. However, it's much quoted. It's too
6 bad it's much quoted. It has become part of the record, but
7 it's simply not true that that was the result of that
8 meeting.

9 There was a result of all of this opposition
10 including the particular meeting with the laboratory
11 directors. As a result of all of this, the President did
12 make at that time two changes in his policy with respect to
13 the test ban. One of them was to abandon his original
14 purpose, which was to have a permanent test ban, and instead
15 go to a policy of promoting a temporary test ban.

16 That did not by itself interfere with the
17 negotiations. Because that in fact was the original Russian
18 position in the first place and, therefore, the President,
19 while in effect he was motivated to do that because of this
20 internal opposition, he was also in effect simply adopting
21 the initial Soviet view on that matter.

22 The other effect was that he came to realize what he
23 hadn't realized earlier, that there was much more opposition
24 on this than he had realized; that of all the mainstream arms
25 control proposals that he was dealing with, this alone and
26 singularly had strong opposition.

27 He then concluded that if a test ban treaty came
28 before the Senate before the Salt II treaty could come before

1 the Senate, that the political situation that would grow out
2 of all this opposition would make it likely that he would
3 lose everything. So, the President concluded that he had to
4 proceed on all of these various arms control efforts that he
5 was pursuing in such a way as to make sure that the test ban
6 did not come in ahead of Salt, on which he placed a higher
7 priority, I believe quite correctly.

8 The question of exactly why the test ban
9 negotiations failed has been analyzed by many people. I
10 happened to bring with me one particular paper that I might
11 wish to have for the record, which is the only post-mortem
12 I'm aware of prepared by the Soviets on this question. It's
13 part of a book written by Roland Timerbaev, who was the
14 deputy chief negotiator for the Soviets. He says that the
15 principal problem was the issue of verification. He says
16 that was a smoke screen. The Americans really simply wanted
17 to continue testing, but they used the verification issue as
18 a smoke screen.

19 Within the verification issue he says the number one
20 block, the principal bar, wasn't what he calls the
21 American-British proposal to put one seismic station on
22 British territory. That was a British proposal, not an
23 American proposal. The way international politics worked,
24 our public position was to support the British; but our
25 private position with the British was that that was wrong and
26 they needed to change.

27 So, it was a British proposal. It originated in the
28 Ministry of Defense. It was used by Margaret Thatcher, Prime

1 Minister Thatcher, who also was adamantly opposed to a test
2 ban, as her easiest and most ready means for fighting the
3 test ban.

4 I mention that particular detail only to emphasize
5 the point that there was very widespread opposition. The
6 laboratories were among those who were opposed, but their
7 role by no means determined the course of events. The course
8 of events was determined much more importantly by a whole
9 string of other factors, including the opposition of the
10 British; who were the third members of this particular
11 negotiation.

12 So, in summary then, the laboratories did testify
13 before the President and others in a fashion which ended
14 up -- the thrust of their testimony was in opposition to a
15 test ban, but that had very little to do with how things
16 actually turned out despite the fact that Harold Agnew has
17 repeatedly said that it was decisive.

18 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: We thank you for your input,
19 all the members of the first panel.

20 We would like now to ask Committee members for
21 questions or comments.

22 Senator Campbell.

23 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Madam Chairwoman, I think, first
24 of all, I should stipulate that each of us agrees that
25 nuclear weapons are a horrible massive means of destruction
26 and that nuclear war would be catastrophic for all of mankind
27 and that every reasonable step should be taken to prevent
28 nuclear war or the occurrence of that war. I think we have

1 somewhat a difference between people as to how to achieve the
2 lessening of potential nuclear conflict that might occur.

3 There are two questions, I think, that we come down
4 to. Should the University play a role in the management of
5 the labs, I gather, is one of the questions. I think we have
6 a secondary issue that deals with the whole issue of nuclear
7 testing. I think should the University have a role in the
8 running of the labs is -- I think we have a second question
9 that has to come. If the University doesn't manage the labs,
10 who's going to manage the labs?

11 Obviously, they're not going to go out of existence.
12 The Department of Energy has too much money to allow them to
13 go out of existence. So, they're going to be taken over by
14 government or in some way they're going to be sold off to the
15 private sector.

16 I think that would be harmful to our opportunity to
17 achieve objectivity in scientific research. I think the
18 University plays a key role in allowing, insofar as possible,
19 the ability of scientific research to take place without
20 being totally dominated by an opinion coming from
21 Washington D. C.

22 I think one of the doctors just testified about the
23 disagreement, I think, that at least Livermore -- I'm not
24 sure about Los Alamos -- has on the verification of whether
25 or not testing was being done by the Soviet Union which I
26 think probably ran in contrary to what DOE and the Defense
27 Department wanted to hear. But, nevertheless, they were
28 capable of doing that.

1 I think it's in the best interests of a free society
2 to have that kind of diversity that the University allows.
3 Even though it might not be as much as some people would
4 like, it's certainly a lot better than you're going to get
5 when you look at the alternatives, which seem to be only
6 two-fold.

7 The issue of the test ban treaty raises a couple of
8 questions, if I can ask a couple of the witnesses. As I
9 understand the testimony, one side believes that nuclear
10 testing is necessary to really determine whether, number one,
11 the instrument is safe and whether you can control the
12 fallout from an accident as relates to those. Apparently
13 there's some sort of deterioration of the stockpile or
14 something of that nature.

15 Let me first stipulate that I'm not an expert in
16 this particular area. I don't think any of us is an expert
17 in this particular area, but that's the question.

18 Then those on the other side say, no, you can do it
19 without nuclear testing. You can formulate some sort of
20 plans and use this wonderful computer and you can get all the
21 answers through that. I guess that's the term "proof test".
22 Somebody used proof test down here, somebody along here. I'm
23 not sure exactly who. Is that the term, meaning you can do
24 it without actually exploding the weapon you can get the
25 information? I think that was the term.

26 So, for just further clarification. Dr. Brown, I
27 think you were the one that talked about the rationale for
28 nuclear testing.

1 DR. BROWN: Right.

2 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Would you quickly -- one other
3 question. What's a destabilizing weapon? Is that the
4 deteriortion you referred to?

5 DR. BROWN: What I mean by a destabilizing weapon is
6 one that is perceived by the other side as particularly
7 threatening because they fear it might be used in a
8 particular crisis in response to a perceived threat. So, it
9 would be used before it was launched.

10 A weapon in this category in my mind is the MX
11 missile, which to date we have not been able to find a
12 successful survivable basing option for; the MX. And I'm
13 speaking from my own personal view in this regard, not from
14 my laboratory.

15 We are studying right now at Livermore the potential
16 basing options for all land-based missiles. We are looking
17 at new proposed basing options for the MX, the so-called
18 railroad basing option. We haven't concluded our studies
19 yet.

20 I look at a weapon system like the Midgetman as
21 providing a stabilizing influence in terms of crisis because
22 it's survivable; it, I believe, can ride out a first strike
23 attack. Because of that, it's going to be much less
24 perceived by the other side as apt to be used in time of
25 crisis.

26 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Who was the Midgetman?

27 DR. BROWN: That's the small ICBM --

28 SENATOR CAMPBELL: That's the one you referred to --

1 DR. BROWN: That's the one I referred to earlier.
2 It's a small intercontinental ballistic missile and it has
3 been called the Midgetman by most people.

4 SENATOR CAMPBELL: You say Congress has been pushing
5 for it?

6 DR. BROWN: Congress has been -- some people in
7 Congress --

8 SENATOR CAMPBELL: No relation between Congress and
9 Midget.

10 DR. BROWN: No, I was being very facetious when I
11 made that comment before. There are a number of people --
12 Senator Gore and people within the House, Les Aspen -- who
13 have been advocating development of this system. Some have
14 said, gee, with a system like this you're essentially
15 achieving arms control, because you're introducing
16 survivability. I hope that answers your question with
17 respect --

18 SENATOR CAMPEL: That was destabilization. I want to
19 go now to the testing.

20 DR. BROWN: Why nuclear testing.

21 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Right.

22 DR. BROWN: We have to look back at -- I mentioned
23 four reasons for testing. One of them was reliability. I
24 believe we have to look at history to see where the problems
25 occurred in the past and learn from them to determine where
26 we have had experiences.

27 SENATOR CAMPBELL: You said during the test ban
28 between '58 to '61.

1 DR. BROWN: There were some examples back then and
2 some examples that Dr. Kidder alluded to and there was one
3 weapon system in particular that I'll address. It was a
4 warhead called the W52, which was something that was put into
5 the stockpile prior to the moratorium and we thought it had
6 been thoroughly tested and we did it as thoroughly as we --
7 this was done by Los Alamos. They did it as thoroughly as
8 they thought. However, during the moratorium a situation
9 arose where a significant safety problem came up.

10 Scientists working at Los Alamos with the high
11 explosive that's used in the trigger of this weapon
12 experienced two accidents in which four people were killed.
13 It was judged at the time that the high explosive in this
14 warhead was just too sensitive and too dangerous to be
15 allowed to be exposed to the troops who have to maintain it.

16 So, the decision was made during the moratorium to
17 replace the high explosive in that warhead with one that was
18 considered safe and it was done on the basis of non-nuclear
19 experiments and calculations.

20 SENATOR CAMPBELL: That's your insensitive high
21 explosive.

22 DR. BROWN: No, this was not insensitive high
23 explosive. This is something that came along years later.
24 They put it in with a high explosive which was less sensitive
25 than the first material. When it was tested after the
26 moratorium was over, it was a failure. It didn't work. It
27 was judged at the time that it was okay. I think Dr. White,
28 who comes from Los Alamos, may want to elaborate on this one

1 particular point.

2 DR. YORK: May I comment on it?

3 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Very quickly and then I want to
4 call on Assemblyman Hayden and Assemblyman Bates.

5 DR. YORK: This issue of stockpile reliability is
6 one of the things the laboratories give for testing and it
7 has much exercise to technical people. But it was completely
8 resolved that it's not necessary for stockpile reliability,
9 it would not change the political situation at the present
10 time. That is, the current administration's opposition to a
11 test ban is not based on this and Jimmy Carter's decision in
12 favor of a test ban was also not based on the conclusions of
13 this argument.

14 So, it's an important factor; but it's not a
15 decisive factor, no matter how it comes up.

16 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Are you finished, Senator
17 Campbell?

18 SENATOR CAMPBELL: No, not through yet.

19 What's your other reasons for --

20 DR. BROWN: The other reason for -- and Dr. York is
21 right. It's only one reason of many, reliability. The other
22 reasons are that we are modernizing the stockpile for
23 improvements in safety, security and survivability.

24 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Does the stockpile deteriorate?
25 I mean, do the weapons deteriorate?

26 DR. BROWN: The weapons are made of chemically
27 interactive materials and they do deteriorate. Sometimes the
28 deterioration becomes unacceptable. We monitor it with

1 non-nuclear means which have fixed problems and we've fixed
2 most problems over the years.

3 SENATOR CAMPBELL: We have about, what, 8,000
4 warheads?

5 DR. BROWN: I can't say what the exact number is,
6 but it's of the order of thousands.

7 SENATOR CAMPBELL: What are the other reasons?

8 DR. BROWN: The other reasons are to determine the
9 effects of vulnerability of warheads that are being developed
10 that are in the stockpile to weapons effects, particularly
11 nuclear weapons effects.

12 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Can you tell whether the guidance
13 system of a radar will work when you have a nuclear
14 explosion?

15 DR. BROWN: This is one of the reasons for doing
16 testing.

17 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Do you do that through a proof
18 test?

19 DR. BROWN: This is done by the Defense Nuclear
20 Agency in a test at the Nevada test site where they expose
21 electronic equipment, part of the communications warning
22 system and so on.

23 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Is all of the testing now done
24 underground?

25 DR. BROWN: All is done underground. We have to do
26 it underground.

27 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Do the Soviets do any above
28 ground prior to the test ban?

1 DR. BROWN: Not to my knowledge they have not.
2 Everything's been underground.

3 SENATOR CAMPBELL: What is the x-ray laser?

4 DR. BROWN: The x-ray laser is a directed energy
5 weapons system that is having research done on it by Lawrence
6 Livermore Laboratory. It's very much like an optical laser.
7 It's pumped by a nuclear weapon instead of by a flash lens
8 and it uses light in a different part of the spectrum. It
9 happens to be in the x-ray part of the electromagnetic
10 spectrum rather than the visible part.

11 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Are the Soviets doing research in
12 x-ray lasers?

13 DR. BROWN: We don't know for sure what they're
14 doing. They've published in the open literature on x-ray
15 lasers. That much we do know. Whether they're doing
16 experimental work or what they are doing beyond what we've
17 seen in the open literature is anybody's guess.

18 We believe they have the basic capability and
19 scientific understanding to make progress in this area, as we
20 believe we can make progress in this area. But they do have
21 the capabilities to do so. Whether they're doing it or not,
22 we don't know.

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Assemblyman Hayden.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Madam Chairman, thank you
25 deeply for this hearing and I express regret I can't be here
26 all this afternoon. But I would like to ask a couple of
27 questions, if I may.

28 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Please do.

1 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: There may be ways to follow-up
2 some of these issues in the Assembly Subcommittee on Higher
3 Education Policies that I chair and I would be glad to work
4 with you on that.

5 Going back to Mr. Frazer. If I understood your
6 statement, sir, it was that the University justifies its role
7 in this regard as a matter of public service and not budget.

8 DR. FRAZER: Yes.

9 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: It's not budget driven.

10 DR. FRAZER: No.

11 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: You said you lose money.

12 DR. FRAZER: No.

13 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Would you clarify what the
14 budget side of it is and how the University comes away with
15 neutral yield or a wash?

16 DR. FRAZER: Yes. It's a matter of being
17 reimbursed. A negotiated reimbursement for expenses
18 incurred. The basis of the management fee is negotiated, as
19 is overhead on any federal contract and grant.

20 The negotiation takes place between Department of
21 Energy officials and -- well, government officials. I'm not
22 sure which -- and people at the University just to try to
23 arrive at a fair settlement; compensation for some of the
24 people we employ who are solely engaged in laboratory
25 matters, compensation for a portion of my time devoted to
26 this and so forth and so on.

27 The total management fee is only a little over
28 \$7 million on a budget of almost two billion. So, you see,

1 it's a rather modest fee and in fact quite deliberately. The
2 University is not desirous of becoming financially dependent
3 on a fee for this service.

4 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Others I'm sure will testify on
5 this later. I just wanted to clarify your position.

6 Now, again, what is the public service function that
7 is involved here in the University's definition?

8 DR. FRAZER: In what way do we think we're
9 performing a public service? Is that what you're asking?

10 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Yes, if you could just clarify.

11 DR. FRAZER: In, I'd say, two principal matters. In
12 our oversight of the laboratories we attempt to maintain a
13 very high level of technical personnel. It's generally
14 believed -- although you could not proof this -- that the
15 University's connection is in fact useful to the laboratories
16 in recruiting top personnel. It is a fact, I think, that you
17 can verify that the quality of research at those two
18 laboratories is far and away superior to the quality of
19 research at government laboratories in general.

20 The second matter and one in which I think the
21 University uniquely has something to offer -- that is, I'm
22 not saying that another enterprise couldn't manage a highly
23 effective laboratory. Bell Laboratories, of course, is a
24 prime example of an excellent industrial laboratory.

25 The second aspect which I think we are in a unique
26 position to carry out is to try to provide, let me say, a
27 quasi-academic atmosphere for the laboratories; an atmosphere
28 in which the scientists of the laboratories are as free to

1 engage in scientific exchange, discourse, argument back and
2 forth the way scientists do as free as possible within the
3 constraints of security.

4 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: What are those constraints
5 that -- what's the difference between an academic atmosphere
6 and a quasi-academic atmosphere?

7 DR. FRAZER: That's why I say quasi. Because on our
8 campuses we've not had classified research.

9 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: What's the limit that makes you
10 say quasi?

11 DR. FRAZER: Oh, it's just that one. As I say, it
12 is not an academic atmosphere. If you go to Livermore or Los
13 Alamos or anything --

14 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: It's sort of an academic.

15 DR. FRAZER: -- you have to have a security
16 clearance to discuss many of these issues.

17 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: How does the University
18 officially reconcile the first amendment freedoms that are
19 associated with the University with this secrecy in terms of
20 the public interest, public mission, public interest mission?

21 Is that just an uncomfortable paradox the Regents
22 have decided to live with? How is it spelled out in policy?
23 How do you censor people in the structure in an otherwise
24 free university?

25 DR. FRAZER: Let's me say, first of all, that -- and
26 repeat -- that on a university campus we do not permit
27 classified research. It does not square well. It does not
28 sit well with the open teaching function, the free exchange

1 of information.

2 Now, the laboratories are not campuses. The
3 classification, the secrecy of the laboratory is, of course,
4 not imposed by the University. It's public policy. I'm not
5 even personally sure that it's a wise public policy. It's
6 been questioned at times by many scientists whether the level
7 of secrecy, security restrictions, is appropriate. But it's
8 imposed public policy by our leaders in Washington, our
9 legislators and our Executive Branch.

10 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: For purposes of policy do you
11 regard the lab as part of the University?

12 DR. FRAZER: Yes.

13 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: But they're not campuses.

14 DR. FRAZER: No, there are many other --

15 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: You started to say that
16 oversight was a function.

17 DR. FRAZER: Yes.

18 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: If the University performs
19 oversight, how can it perform oversight as a university over
20 entities that are not campuses and where classification and
21 secrecy is needed in the involvement of personnel? At that
22 point is the University a university or does the University
23 change hats and become something else? Or is the Defense
24 Department using the University as a cloak for what is really
25 a Defense Department operation?

26 I don't understand the way the University defines
27 its various roles here. A lot of us -- I think Mr. Bates
28 included -- have been critical of the University being

1 involved in this relationship. But if the relationship
2 continues at the decision of the Regents, then the question
3 becomes should the University be part of a nuclear weapons
4 lobbying function and, if not, how do you neutralize the
5 lobby? How do you exert oversight sufficient that all points
6 of view are heard and is politically neutered and is no
7 longer a lobbying complex for one view or another of arms
8 control.

9 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Dr. Frazer, as you address
10 those questions, also let me allude to something that
11 Professor York said. He mentioned that he was director at
12 one time of the laboratory --

13 Which one was that?

14 DR. YORK: Livermore.

15 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Livermore. And that at that
16 time, if I am correct, the laboratory people did go and
17 testify that there should not be a nuclear test ban.

18 Now, if the laboratory comes under the monitoring of
19 the University, I would like to know about the relationship
20 between the people in the laboratory and the University and
21 the fact that it was clearly stated that the laboratory was
22 advocating resistance to a nuclear test ban. Can you explain
23 that relationship?

24 DR. FRAZER: There is such a complex of questions
25 here. I'll try.

26 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Do the best you can. I'm sorry
27 to burden you down.

28 DR. FRAZER: No, that's all right. I planned in the

1 third panel this afternoon to get into the mechanisms of
2 oversight that we use. So, to a certain extent I will be
3 getting ahead of myself. I'll try to be brief and I'll see
4 how much you want me to say now and how much you want me to
5 say later.

6 First, let me --- I guess I'll go in reverse order
7 and answer your very specific question there. It's closely
8 related to one that Assemblyman Hayden asked. What is the
9 University's proper oversight role with respect to
10 ascertaining that the laboratories are giving sound technical
11 advice and not going inappropriately beyond the bounds of
12 giving technical advice and, as you say, lobbying for nuclear
13 weapons. I think that's a perfectly valid question to ask.

14 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Also, if you could, sir, in
15 this answer please also address the other question that the
16 Chair made in the opening remarks about the University's
17 policy on environmental impact reports.

18 DR. FRAZER: Okay. Let me try to get one part of
19 the question at a time.

20 Dr. York in fact addressed an occasion on which the
21 two laboratory directors -- he was not director of a
22 laboratory at that time. He was in fact involved in the test
23 ban negotiations himself. The manner in which those two
24 laboratory directors testified about the desirability of a
25 Comprehensive Test Ban.

26 It's perfectly appropriate -- in fact, it's the
27 obligation of those laboratory directors -- to assess for the
28 President and for the Congress to the best of their ability

1 the technical problems that there would be in a test ban.

2 Now, the view they come up with may not be one that
3 in balance agrees with what everyone around the table feels;
4 but they have an obligation to do their very best to give
5 sound technical advice. And I say this word technical.

6 They do not make public policy and they should not
7 and it's my belief in general they refrain from exerting an
8 undue influence on policy issues. They give independent
9 technical advice.

10 Now, I think it is indeed a proper obligation for
11 the University to review, to monitor. In fact, it's my task
12 to assure the president of the University that the
13 laboratories are being responsible in the way they carry out
14 this function of supplying technical advice. In fact, it is
15 currently a charge to the Scientific and Academic Advisory
16 Committee, which is one of the key bodies and, Assemblyman
17 Hayden, this will get to part of your question.

18 We have a committee of partly University faculty,
19 partly faculty from other universities, some technical
20 experts from outside the University. A very highly competent
21 committee to which I refer questions such as this. That's
22 the committee that was referred to chaired by Professor
23 Reines. Professor York is also a member of that committee.

24 I have in fact referred this question to that
25 committee of evaluating the laboratories' policies and
26 actions with respect to nuclear weapons testing and that
27 study is in progress.

28 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Let me just try to for the

1 record -- and all of these proceedings are being recorded, so
2 I can always check back into it later. But I thought I heard
3 Professor York say that while director at the laboratory, it
4 was his position that we should not seek a ban against
5 nuclear testing. He spent quite a bit of time discussing the
6 political ramifications.

7 DR. FRAZER: Herb, maybe you want to clarify that.

8 DR. YORK: I was talking about the episode which is
9 much discussed in which the two laboratory directors met with
10 President Carter at his invitation. I don't think you can
11 call that lobbying. If the President invites you in to talk
12 about something, you're obligated to talk about it; whether
13 you're a laboratory director or not.

14 But those events took place in the Carter
15 administration. I was not the director of the laboratory at
16 that time. I was working in the White House and the Pentagon
17 and the State Department on arms control issues. But I was
18 working for the government, not for the laboratories.

19 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Was it your statement that the
20 laboratories supported the opposition against nuclear test
21 ban?

22 DR. YORK: The burden of the laboratories' statement
23 to the President was that a test ban would be harmful from
24 their perspective.

25 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I just wanted to be sure. I'm
26 a bit confused. Because I guess the laboratories have to be
27 an advocate. So, you're not exactly neutral. Because if a
28 question comes up would it be harmful, you have to say yes

1 and thus show some advocacy for the position against the test
2 ban.

3 I just want to be clear as to the position of what's
4 being said here. That's what I'll try to do is facilitate so
5 we'll have some clarity.

6 DR. FRAZER: I think I can clarify that. There's a
7 difference between simply saying whether you advocate a test
8 ban or not. The function of the laboratories is to provide
9 analysis of what would be the effect of a test ban on the
10 country's nuclear deterrent. It's a technical evaluation
11 they should supply. I believe that differs from advocacy.

12 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I believe Assemblyman Hayden
13 had some additional questions and I'll try to keep still so
14 you can answer his questions.

15 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: I don't find it very easy to
16 draw the line between opposing a treaty on technical grounds
17 and opposing it on policy grounds. I'm sure that there's a
18 factor of human judgment in there. I would hope so.

19 DR. FRAZER: But let me clarify what I mean by that.
20 The government would have to take into account or
21 policymakers would have to take into account a whole spectrum
22 of considerations on whether a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
23 is in the national interest. The technical issues I refer to
24 are only one component of that decision and it's that
25 component and that component only on which they seek advice
26 from the laboratory directors.

27 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: My question was why the
28 University and the public taxpayers of the State of

1 California should be subsidizing this advocacy in any way and
2 how it's possible to even begin to reconcile it with freedom
3 of speech and the openness that normally surrounds the
4 University.

5 I do not understand your answer. I believe you said
6 that you've booted that question to a select committee.

7 DR. FRAZER: No, no. There's a third panel this
8 afternoon in which I will get into that in more detail. I'd
9 be happy to discuss it more right now since you aren't able
10 to be here this afternoon.

11 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Yes, if you could just say what
12 that is and also what is the University's position on
13 environmental impact statements regarding the labs.

14 DR. FRAZER: Okay. The first -- I just want to
15 correct one misapprehension. The taxpayers of California are
16 not through the University subsidizing the laboratories.
17 We're reimbursed by the --

18 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: They're subsidizing the
19 University.

20 DR. FRAZER: Oh, in general.

21 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: Right. Under the cloak of the
22 University or the mantle of the University people are
23 advocating positions in the White House against treaties.

24 Now, that should be a taxpayer concern. We are
25 subsidizing the mantle, the framework, the legitimacy under
26 which the labs operate.

27 If you took me to mean that we're paying for the
28 labs, well we do that through our federal taxes. But I was

1 only speaking of the state portion of it.

2 DR. FRAZER: Well, I believe that the University's
3 perception of performing a public service in managing the
4 laboratories is, indeed, not one for us to judge. If those
5 who are making the decisions about who should be the
6 contractor for Los Alamos and Livermore perceives that the
7 University is not performing a public service, I'm sure that
8 the Regents will draw from this.

9 For more than 40 years every President and every
10 Congress has, when they considered the issue, come to the
11 conclusion that that arrangement was in the public interest.
12 We are available to continue this service. We don't seek it.

13 ASSEMBLYMAN HAYDEN: On the environmental impact --

14 DR. FRAZER: Oh, yes. There is currently -- well,
15 it's a complicated issue and I don't have all the
16 technical -- I didn't come totally technically prepared on
17 that.

18 But let me say that this is an issue in which to
19 some degree the University is in the middle. The federal
20 government has environmental impact standards and the
21 laboratories comply with the federal government's
22 environmental impact standards. There's also a question to
23 be raised of the appropriateness, necessity, of the
24 laboratories to comply with California environmental impact
25 standards.

26 We accept that. But there is a tugging and pulling
27 between state and federal interests here in which I say we're
28 a bit caught in the middle.

1 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I'm a bit confused with some of
2 your responses. Because as I look back at the former
3 presenters -- in particular, Dr. Brown -- it was very clear
4 to me that the UC system has advocated the opposition to a
5 ban on nuclear testing or has advocated nuclear testing.

6 It seems to me from the testimony -- and I'm glad
7 we're recording it -- that there is a very distinct and clear
8 position coming from the UC employees that testing must go
9 forward.

10 So, I mean, I'm not judging whether that's good or
11 bad. I just don't think that it's correct to say you're
12 neutral. Because what I heard from the witnesses from the UC
13 there's no neutrality.

14 DR. FRAZER: I'm sorry, I did not mean to use -- I
15 didn't use the word neutrality. I was simply stating that I
16 believe that the proper function of the laboratories and I
17 believe the function which they carry out is to give
18 technical advice on the consequences of a test ban treaty.

19 Now, that technical advice has, according to Dr.
20 Brown and Dr. White, been such as to point out risks to our
21 nuclear weapons programs if we were to have a Comprehensive
22 Test Ban Treaty. In other words -- and correct me,
23 gentlemen, if I'm saying something that differs from you --
24 they have advised the government that from the point of view
25 of their program as they are mandated by Congress, a test ban
26 treaty would have an adverse impact upon it.

27 So, I hope that's clear what I'm trying to say.

28 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Just for the record I just want

1 to state or restate what Dr. Brown said. He said, "I
2 disagree that testing accelerates the arms race. Test
3 limitations could result in political cost as well as ..."

4 These are pretty strong statements in support. So,
5 I don't think your role goes just to the technical advice.
6 It goes to personal opinion and political advice as well from
7 what I hear from the people testifying as employees of the UC
8 system. These are quotes that we've been taking down as we
9 listen.

10 DR. FRAZER: Yes, but Dr. Brown is a person with
11 personal opinions, also. Dr. Brown is getting into some
12 policy issues here and giving you his opinion on them. I
13 think maybe I should let Dr. Brown get a word in.

14 DR. BROWN: I also said in my testimony that there
15 are political advantages to test limitations, that it's our
16 job at the laboratories to state what the technical costs are
17 and it's up to the federal government to weigh the costs and
18 advantages and to make decisions in this area and set policy.

19 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Well, you know, there's a fine
20 line here and we're not all marching down that fine line.
21 We're crossing over for personal reasons and University
22 reasons and so on. We cross back and forth over that line.
23 So, I want to point that out.

24 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Assemblyman Bates.

25 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Yes, thank you. I hope I will be
26 able to attend this afternoon. So, some of the questions
27 about the UC role and the relationship of the labs, I hope
28 we'll get into it at that time, too. But let me just make

1 two observations.

2 First of all, I believe that any organization, be it
3 the University of California, who are building nuclear
4 weapons, or be it the Soviets, as their counterpart, who are
5 building nuclear weapons and designing those weapons,
6 inherently are going to impose any kind of test ban treaty --
7 excuse me, not treaty; but any kind of test ban on their
8 ability to test the weapons. I think inherently those people
9 who are manufacturing the weapons, making them are going to
10 want to test them.

11 (Thereupon a short discussion was held off the
12 record.)

13 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: So, it doesn't surprise me that
14 the labs would in fact take that position.

15 The other thing is that when the Department of
16 Defense or the Department of Energy is paying for the
17 research, they basically are calling the tune and they're
18 telling us in fact the research they want and they're
19 basically purchasing that research from our labs. That's my
20 belief. And academic freedom and all the rest goes only
21 within the restraints of their ability to perform under those
22 contracts.

23 When you have those contracts, it seems to me you're
24 driven to try to perform so that you get more money and
25 inherently in that comes the conflict. When you're asking to
26 give your opinions, I don't care who -- like today people
27 expressed, well, these are my personal opinions and not the
28 opinion of the lab. When the lab's opinion is expressed, I

1 think that inherently the machine drives itself toward more
2 funding and more research and more exotic weaponry and all
3 the rest.

4 I personally feel that the University role in this
5 is one in which the Defense Department is basically
6 exploiting for the reasons that the University says they're
7 involved. The University says they're involved because they
8 add a certain amount of prestige. I think that's unfortunate
9 that the University's prestige is in fact being used in this
10 kind of way.

11 They also say that they're involved because they can
12 provide a certain amount of technical personnel. I think
13 that's unfortunate, too, that those are the reasons why this
14 makes this a better lab than another. It seems to me that's
15 a dichotomy with the University's role of a free and open
16 society to provide research that would lead toward peace
17 rather than research that would lead toward destruction of
18 humanity.

19 So, my position is rather clear on the issue. But
20 what I'd like to inquire about is information that relates to
21 the testimony this morning.

22 First of all, I'd like to ask the person who works
23 for the -- excuse me, Jack Evernden -- about whether in his
24 opinion today it is possible to have a test ban treaty that
25 in fact we would know when either side violated the treaty.
26 Is it your opinion that we could enact a test ban treaty that
27 would be verifiable?

28 DR. EVERNDEN: Yes. You set the threshold. If you

1 want verifiable, I'll tell you the seismic network that's
2 required to do it.

3 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: So, it's totally possible to
4 verify it, you're saying.

5 DR. EVERNDEN: Yes, with the appropriate network. I
6 just want to make clear that this requires -- at a low
7 threshold this requires a network inside the Soviet Union.
8 But our experience with the Soviet Union is they'll accept
9 this level.

10 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: The next question I had -- did I
11 hear testimony, I thought, we had 30,000 warheads? Was that
12 mentioned by --

13 DR. GARWIN: About 30,000 nuclear weapons, about
14 11,000 strategic warheads, give or take a few thousand.

15 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Give or take a few thousand.

16 I also heard that someone indicated in their
17 testimony that roughly if we got down to a level of about a
18 thousand warheads, that that would be sufficient in terms of
19 our ability to respond to any kind -- or would be a
20 sufficient deterrent to any kind of attack that might in fact
21 occur on our country.

22 DR. GARWIN: I think there's general agreement that
23 if our warheads are survivable and if there's no defense
24 against them, then that number would be adequate.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Then the question is: Do we
26 have sufficient nuclear warheads right now in stockpile to be
27 able to have that 1,000 for us without having to look for
28 new, more exotic kinds of warheads? Do we have sufficient

1 capacity?

2 DR. GARWIN: In my opinion we have sufficient types
3 of warheads. We might have to manufacture more of a
4 particular kind. We have plenty of material for doing that.

5 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Are those adequately tested so
6 that we know they're reliable and they will --

7 DR. GARWIN: Yes, the ones that I'm talking about
8 are adequately tested and can be maintained reliable without
9 nuclear testing. That was a lot of the discussion that went
10 on before.

11 Let me just say that when I talked about a proof
12 test, I meant a real underground nuclear explosion.

13 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Thank you.

14 DR. GARWIN: Yes.

15 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: So, what you're saying then is
16 we have sufficient knowledge right now and we have sufficient
17 technology to manufacture roughly a thousand some odd
18 warheads that would be sufficient to protect us and be a
19 sufficient deterrent against an attack and would be
20 survivable and would protect our country?

21 DR. GARWIN: That assumes that the Soviet Union is
22 not impelled and not allowed to build vastly more warheads
23 than we would have. I'm not advocating 1,000 on our side,
24 20,000 on their side.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: But it's indicated that in fact
26 we can verify that. In fact, if we could reach some
27 agreement so that we could reduce our numbers down to 1,000,
28 that we in fact have the capability now of producing

1 sufficient warheads that would be reliable enough to protect
2 our country.

3 So, it seems to me that, given the information here
4 that we've heard this morning, that it is possible for our
5 country to embark upon a realistic test ban and, I think most
6 people here would agree, a reduction in the amount of weapons
7 that we currently have and the amount of warheads that we
8 currently have available to us.

9 DR. GARWIN: That's my view. Some people see the
10 security of the United States only in an unending arms race
11 with the Soviet Union, but not I.

12 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Would most people here agree
13 that we could in fact sufficiently defend our country and
14 have sufficient ability to survive a nuclear attack and in
15 fact have enough deterrent to prevent a nuclear attack with
16 roughly 1,000 warheads? I guess it would be warheads. There
17 could be more than one warhead -- 1,000 missiles.

18 DR. WHITE: Let me suggest that while I think there
19 is general agreement that lower levels of nuclear weapons on
20 both sides might be very desirable both for stability and for
21 reducing risk of nuclear war, there is some debate about
22 precisely how low that level can go and still maintain a
23 stable relationship between the two super powers. Some of
24 them have said that the number is as low as 1,000. I think
25 there are some who say that the number needs to be higher
26 than 1,000.

27 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: What is the range?

28 DR. WHITE: Let me just pick, for example, a number

1 that has received considerable public attention lately. That
2 is, reductions of 50 percent. At least that would be
3 regarded fairly uniformly as a significant first step towards
4 reaching a more stable relationship.

5 Let me also add that there is some question about
6 whether or not the existing inventory of weapon types would
7 be sufficient for the foreseeable future to maintain a stable
8 relationship at those lower numbers of weapons.

9 I think one of the lessons that we can learn from
10 history is that developments outside of the area of nuclear
11 technology may serve to imperil the viability of nuclear
12 forces and that in the past at least -- and perhaps we can
13 project from past experience -- judgments have been made that
14 new types of nuclear weapons might be required.

15 That does not mean that one might wish to increase
16 the overall numbers of nuclear numbers, but rather trade
17 types now in the inventory for types that might have to be
18 developed to meet new circumstances.

19 Those judgments have been made in the past. It is
20 likely that history will demonstrate that in the future such
21 judgments will also be made.

22 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I'm wondering if the unthinkable
23 were to occur and we were to have a strike by some adversary
24 and they were trying to knock out our capability of
25 responding, what would the planet be like in relationship to
26 what we've heard about potential nuclear winter and is that a
27 feasible option for anyone to realistically consider that as
28 an option; an all-out first strike attack on another country

1 given the type of buildup from the fallout themselves.

2 If that occurred, wouldn't it doom the planet, if in
3 fact we did have such an attack, if we then countered and
4 unleashed our nuclear weapons? Wouldn't that assure that the
5 planet would in fact enter into a nuclear winter?

6 DR. GARWIN: Let me answer first. I don't think
7 that the planet would be destroyed. I think the human race
8 would survive.

9 But I think what deters the Soviet Union is the
10 certainty that there would be a U.S. response. Our response,
11 in my opinion, would not be eliminated because of our fear of
12 nuclear winter. So, the Soviet Union sees a direct reaction
13 to their potential strike and is deterred from doing that.

14 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: What about nuclear winter? Is
15 that some idea that now people in science consider not to be
16 a valid proposition?

17 DR. GARWIN: I think that as many as a billion
18 people would be killed without nuclear winter. That is,
19 through direct destruction, fallout and other known
20 phenomenon. Nuclear winter might double that. It wouldn't
21 change things in order of magnitude. It wouldn't eliminate
22 the very last people. So, I think that nuclear war is bad
23 enough with or without nuclear winter.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: We'll all stipulate to that. I
25 was just trying to think about the activity that if you in
26 fact incurred a strike, you would in fact have some
27 repercussions very directly on your own country. Assuming
28 that you would then respond -- because we will have the

1 capability of responding if with nothing more than our subs
2 and other missiles that are capable of moving and are not
3 easily identifiable as to their location, they'll be able to
4 respond.

5 So, my question would it be just madness to ever
6 contemplate it in the first place with the destruction of the
7 country that you attack, but it also could rebound to have
8 effects on your own country.

9 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Assemblyman Bates, I'm reminded
10 of a hearing that this Committee had in this same room
11 several years ago when Beverlee Myers was the director of the
12 Department of Health Service. We had the western regional
13 representative from FEMA, a department of the Emergency
14 Management Agency to testify. And we've been interested and
15 this Committee has had a history of having hearings on just
16 exactly what you're raising now. We were concerned about the
17 nuclear winter, we were concerned about our participation in
18 further research and testing of nuclear weapons.

19 The representative from FEMA said in front of the
20 Committee that if we had a six-day warning, that we could
21 move the population of, say, Los Angeles from a high priority
22 area to a low priority area. His suggestion was somewhere up
23 around Edwards Air Force Base. Six days.

24 As the testimony went on and on and on, several
25 members of the Committee found that the ridiculous nature of
26 testimony made it unbearable to sit through it. So, we
27 terminated the testimony.

28 When Beverlee Myers came up, she said, I want to

1 reassure the members of this Committee that not a penny of
2 state money will be spent to further that kind of strategy
3 and planning for a nuclear holocaust.

4 Now, her position then was that she saw that this
5 probably could never be. We could never get the population
6 of Los Angeles on the 410 away from Los Angeles up to Edwards
7 Air Force Base, a few score miles away from Los Angeles, from
8 the epicenter, to protect the several million people that
9 would try to get out of town and certainly weren't going to
10 be given a six-day warning.

11 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: See, my concern is a little bit
12 broader. Like, for instance, when they had the nuclear
13 accident in the Soviet Union, people in Europe were greatly
14 concerned about being able to drink milk. They had pregnant
15 women with children. They were directly concerned about what
16 happened just from that little fallout. You can imagine what
17 the fallout would be in an all-out attack on the United
18 States.

19 It would seem to me that particles would go into the
20 atmosphere that would be damaging to the planet for
21 centuries. Then if you were to counterattack, that would be
22 the absolute icing on the cake.

23 Now, if that theory is not true, then I would like
24 to hear that that's not true. Because I hear some ideas from
25 some people in this administration talking about winning a
26 nuclear war or something, which seems to me to be absolute
27 folly. You can't win a war like that.

28 DR. BROWN: Can I address that? Because you raised

1 the issue of nuclear winter and that is something we have
2 studied at Livermore Lab.

3 I do not think you'll find any disagreement on this
4 panel that the holocaust you've described is something that
5 could be avoided. What we perhaps differ in is the approach
6 to avoiding nuclear war. You can't win a nuclear war and I
7 disagree with anybody who claims you can.

8 As far as nuclear winter is concerned, our
9 laboratory took it under its own initiative to take some of
10 its resources and dedicate them at our own expense to study
11 the nuclear winter problem. It's an extremely uncertain
12 scenario that's been portrayed. I think there are a number
13 of scientists who do agree that there's a lot of
14 uncertainties involved.

15 But there are many other reasons -- the threat of
16 fallout, instant mass destruction and so on -- which are
17 sufficient reason -- and Dr. Garwin pointed this out -- to
18 avoid that situation in the first place. That's all I wanted
19 to say.

20 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Well, let me conclude.
21 Unfortunately, I have to go now. I guess the panel will
22 recess at a certain --

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Yes, recess.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I appreciate it. I've learned a
25 lot. I didn't realize the University was involved with
26 lobbying for funds. I gather the way it's put, it's not
27 basically lobbying. It's a request for their opinions before
28 various policymakers and they proceed to give their opinions.

1 I understand that it's advantageous for the
2 Department of Energy to have the kind of research that's
3 done. It's high-quality. I just really think it's a shame
4 that the great University of California is involved in
5 putting its prestige on the line to build these kinds of
6 weapons and be involved with providing the administration to
7 see this kind of happen.

8 I'd much rather it if the University would in fact
9 devote more of its time in trying to figure out things like
10 how we can avoid these conflicts, issues about using the
11 weapons in another way, to decommission them and figure out a
12 peaceful way of de-escalating this arms raise.

13 So, I gather that the Regents may not agree with
14 that view, but I think as a public member that it's important
15 for us to try to get the University out of this madness and
16 this race and try to devote itself more toward ways in which
17 we can be competitive with the rest of the world in a time in
18 which our efficiency and our competitive advantage in other
19 areas is sorely lacking and our scientists would -- not in
20 building the great numbers that they are into the arms race
21 and would in fact be trained in a way to help our country be
22 able to build things like stereos and things that we can
23 compete with the Japanese and the West Germans and the French
24 and other people in ways to make our economy strong rather
25 than devoting all this energy into things that hopefully will
26 never be used and have very little, I think, application to
27 our strong economy that we need to build in this country.

28 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Senator Campbell.

1 SENATOR CAMPBELL: Madam Chair, it seems to me that
2 we released the nuclear genie some years ago. Although we
3 aren't particularly proud of that fact, we did release it.

4 Now, I guess it's the fact that our policy is mad.
5 I think it's called mutually assured destruction. That,
6 horrible as it sounds, is what's managed to keep peace for
7 about 40 years or maybe a little more. Peace not necessarily
8 as we want it, but as we know it today.

9 I think the dilemma in which we find ourselves is
10 that we'd like to say, no more. It's like the inventor of
11 the long bow, who said this is the ultimate weapon and
12 they'll never invent something better. But somebody's going
13 to come up with something new.

14 Unless we're capable of maintaining a degree of
15 balance for the security of this country, then the potential
16 for losing the freedoms and liberties that we have exists. I
17 think that's the difference that reasonable people can have
18 is how do you prevent the war.

19 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Can I put you on hold? Because
20 we'll continue with this and I do appreciate you staying
21 through this period of time.

22 May I invite all of the witnesses, including the
23 scientists at the UC system, the administration of the UC
24 system, the scientists that belong to the Southern California
25 Federation of Scientists, members of the Committee and the
26 press to a hosted buffet luncheon at McKenna's. McKenna's is
27 in the Ellis Building at 10th and L.

28 We will recess the Committee now and we will come

1 back at 2:00 and we'll go from 2:00 to 4:00. So, we'd like
2 to have you in for a luncheon and we'd like to get you back
3 and we are going to start right on time at 2:00.

4 (Thereupon the luncheon recess was taken.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

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CHAIRPERSON WATSON: We're going to reconvene the Health and Human Services' hearing on nuclear testing at the UC laboratories.

I would like to ask all of the presentors who have written statements to be sure and leave that statement with us and please speak clearly into the mike. If you can talk a little slower -- some of you have a tendency to speak fast -- then we can get everything you say down. Be sure that you're speaking directly into the mike.

We will have two panels this afternoon. We will follow the agenda pretty much as it is in print and we will ask Committee members, if you can, to hold your questions until the end of the panel.

Panel II deals with the conformity of laboratory operations with national policy priorities. The lead-off speaker is Dr. Paul S. Brown, Assistant Associate Director for Arms Control, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Dr. Brown.

DR. BROWN: I don't have any written comments, prepared comments, to add to my statement of this morning; but I would like to submit some information for the record.

Dr. Batzel, director of the laboratory, was asked a number of questions in writing before this hearing and he responded to those questions directly. I don't have a lot to add to those except that with respect to the issue of on-site inspections, I have some written testimony that was prepared

1 by a seismologist at Livermore named William J. Hannon, Jr.
2 He's Assistant Verification Program Manager and a noted
3 authority in the field of seismic verification. He's written
4 some testimony which discusses the difficulties and the
5 possibilities of monitoring a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
6 when it's required. In here he addresses in some detail the
7 role of on-site inspections.

8 He also wrote back in January of 1985 an article for
9 Science Magazine on the same subject and I'd like to submit
10 both of these for the record.

11 Also, there was just released a report written by
12 Jack Rosengren in response to the report that Dr. Kidder
13 wrote in response to Rosengren's first report. It's entitled
14 "Stockpile Reliability and Nuclear Test Bans: A Reply to a
15 Critic's Comments." I would like to submit this also for the
16 record.

17 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you very much. We
18 appreciate that and just see that our staff gets it.

19 Dr. Paul White we've heard from earlier this
20 morning. He's from the Center for National Security Studies,
21 Los Alamos National Laboratory.

22 Dr. White.

23 DR. WHITE: Madam Chairman, I'd like to keep my
24 remarks for this panel fairly brief. I'd be prepared to deal
25 with any questions later.

26 I would like to submit for the record and to the
27 members of the Committee a statement delivered by Dr.
28 Siegfried Hecker, director of Los Alamos National Laboratory,

1 on the occasion of hearings before the Senate Foreign
2 Relations Committee concerning ratification of the
3 Threshold Test Ban Treaty and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions
4 Treaty on January 15th of this year.

5 I'm going to make two fairly brief comments about
6 one of the issues before this Committee this afternoon. That
7 has to do with the conformity of laboratory actions with
8 United States policy as expressed in the preamble language in
9 a couple of the treaties in which this government is a
10 signator or is complying unilaterally.

11 That language -- let me speak, for example, with
12 regard to the LTBT treaty of 1963. For the sake of this
13 discussion the language says:

14 "Proclaiming as their principal aim
15 the speediest possible achievement
16 of an agreement on general and
17 complete disarmament under strict
18 international control and in
19 accordance with the objectives of
20 the United Nations which would put
21 an end to the armaments race and
22 eliminate incentive for the
23 production and testing of all kinds
24 of weapons, including nuclear
25 weapons; in seeking to achieve the
26 discontinuance of test explosions
27 of nuclear weapons for all time
28 ..." And so on.

1 The order of the language and the negotiation record
2 with regard to this language is fairly clear that the goal of
3 seeking to achieve discontinuance of test explosions of
4 nuclear weapons is pursuant to the progress on an agreement
5 on a general and complete disarmament under strict
6 international control and in accordance with the objectives
7 of the United Nations and the goal of putting an end to the
8 armaments race and eliminating the incentives to the
9 production and testing of all kinds of weapons.

10 I think U.S. policy for a number of administrations
11 the last 20, 25 years is consistent. The goal of seeking an
12 end to nuclear testing follows from success in eliminating
13 the needs for nuclear weapons and that in turn will follow
14 from success in eliminating some of the source of tensions
15 between countries and progress towards achieving a rule of
16 international law.

17 That will conclude the comments that I would be
18 prepared to make at this time, but I would be happy to answer
19 questions.

20 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you.

21 Dr. Herbert York, Director of the Institute on
22 Global Conflict and Cooperation.

23 DR. YORK: I have very little to say at this time,
24 too, except I'd be glad to answer questions.

25 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Do you want to hit that button
26 on the mike?

27 DR. YORK: I'll just repeat that I have no prepared
28 statement and I have little to say, but I'd be glad to answer

1 questions if any are directed to me.

2 I do make one short remark though. The title of
3 Panel II is the "Conformity of Laboratory Operations with
4 National Policy Priorities". People who raise that as a
5 question usually have in mind the fact, as was correctly
6 stated this morning, that every President of the United
7 States until the present has stated that a test ban is his
8 policy.

9 That, of course, hardly exhausts what Presidents
10 have had to say about national security and most of the time
11 they in fact take up issues which are quite distant and
12 different from a test ban in the area of national security.

13 I don't think any of us would want the laboratory
14 directors to make their own private interpretations of what
15 it is the President has in mind when he makes his various
16 general and political statements at the State of the Union
17 Address or wherever. The only way statements like that, the
18 totality of the President's plans can be put into action are
19 through a necessarily bureaucratic process involving in this
20 case the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy and
21 both at the presidential appointee level and then at the
22 bureaucratic level where they work out in detail a program of
23 activities at the laboratory designed to accomplish a long
24 list of stated objectives; some of them long-term, some of
25 them short-term.

26 Similarly, the laboratory's program is worked out in
27 connection with the budget process. In fact, most of the
28 details are in fact worked out in that connection. That

1 forms the backbone of the policymaking process.

2 In working out that, all of that ultimately goes
3 before the Congress for their final decision and the program
4 of the laboratories in considerable detail is contained in
5 ultimately the budget proposal that is enacted by the
6 Congress and then also approved by the authorization
7 committees, as well as the appropriation committees.

8 I can't discuss everything -- I don't know enough to
9 discuss everything in detail. There isn't time. But it
10 certainly is my observation that in terms of the directives
11 and instructions they receive from the working authorities in
12 the Executive Branch and in terms of the budgets that are
13 approved by the Congress in the appropriations and
14 authorizations committees, the laboratories do indeed work in
15 conformance with national policy.

16 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you.

17 Dr. Hugh DeWitt, Lawrence Livermore National
18 Laboratories.

19 DR. DeWITT: I am a physicist and have been on staff
20 of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for 30 years. During my
21 time as a staff member of a nuclear weapons laboratory, I've
22 come to some opinions that strongly differ from what the
23 previous speakers have said and I'm going to lay on the line
24 saying something very, very different which will invite
25 perhaps debate and rebuttal. That, of course, is just fine.

26 But, anyway, I want to make the case that the
27 weapons laboratories in the course of the last 40 years since
28 World War II have emerged as very large, powerful, ongoing

1 permanent institutions in American life dedicated to
2 developing nuclear weapons technology.

3 Developing nuclear weapons they have been very, very
4 successful. The University management has allowed very
5 high-quality people to join the laboratories for permanent
6 careers and I think in a technical sense they have done a
7 very good job in developing a great range of nuclear weapons.

8 The other side of it is that they've also emerged as
9 an institution with very great influence on national policy.
10 Particularly in this session I want to address the question
11 to what extent the weapons labs themselves actually dictate
12 US national policy. In other words, I'm going to directly
13 contradict what has been said by Paul Brown, Paul White and
14 even Herb York; all of whom I respect and we can argue.

15 First of all, I want to make it very clear the
16 laboratory managements are not neutral, unbiased scientific
17 groups giving simply neutral technical advice to the U.S.
18 government. It is my opinion from my careful reading of
19 statements by the laboratory directors to the various
20 congressional committees -- the House Armed Services
21 Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Foreign
22 Affairs Committee and so on -- that in fact the testimony
23 given to Congress is very often highly advocative of
24 continued nuclear weapons development work.

25 I mean, the people in the laboratories who have
26 ridden to the top believe in their work and believe in the
27 need for ongoing nuclear weapons testing and development for
28 the foreseeable future. Thus, the laboratories have become a

1 center of opposition to nuclear test ban agreements of any
2 kind whatever.

3 Over and over again in my 30 years of experience
4 with the laboratories I have seen examples where the
5 laboratories have strongly intervened to block in their view
6 the threat of a test ban treaty of any kind. That goes on
7 right now to the present time.

8 Now, there is the very sticky question of to what
9 extent do the laboratories dictate national policy by the way
10 they design nuclear weapons. I don't think there's anything
11 consciously malicious here. It's just the way things fall.
12 The laboratories are centers of exuberant technical
13 excellence. They are the institutions that have the weapons
14 experts. They have the physicists who design the weapons,
15 which then are tested in Nevada and which actually work. The
16 Congress generally are people who are not technical experts
17 and have to rely on what the laboratory people say.

18 By a process of, well, just interconnection between
19 the laboratories and the Department of Defense and the
20 Department of Energy, it turns out that the expertise of the
21 weapons laboratories influence very much what actually
22 happens in the way of developing nuclear weapons.

23 There's a constant flow of laboratory management
24 personnel between the labs and Washington. So, it's very
25 easy for the nuclear design expert from the labs to explain
26 to officials in the Department of Defense and the Department
27 of Energy what is possible and what is desirable in the way
28 of designing nuclear weapons.

1 I've also maintained, by the way, that the
2 laboratory directors actually go out to Washington and lobby
3 for new weapon systems. In the process of competing between
4 the two laboratories, there's a great deal of effort to, in
5 effect, sell new weapons ideas. This isn't necessarily bad,
6 but it's something that everybody should be aware of. The
7 laboratories are not neutral experts on this. They're in a
8 position to give what they believe as evidence.

9 Now, the process of how they influence national
10 policy. Clearly, the policy decisions are made in
11 Washington. For example, there is a Military Liaison
12 Committee between the DOE and the DOD; which is headed, for
13 example, by Richard Wagner, who used to be the Associate
14 Director for Nuclear Design at the Livermore Laboratory for
15 several years.

16 My point here is simply that there is a constant
17 flow from the technical people from the labs to Washington
18 and back and forth, but the expertise resides in the
19 laboratories. Because of this fact, it's very easy for the
20 design policies of the laboratories to be in fact decided at
21 the laboratories themselves. I think this is what happens.

22 Now, I've spelled it out in an article in the
23 Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. So, it's on the record
24 and I submit this for the record and I'll back it up with a
25 couple of statements.

26 So, the recommendations of the labs become policy
27 decisions which the labs actually wanted in the first place.
28 The result is the weapons labs have evolved policy which in

1 my opinion is contrary to what is embedded in the treaty
2 agreements of the United States made, for example, in 1963.
3 The U.S. and the Soviet Union signed the Limited Test Ban
4 Treaty, which was discussed a moment ago. The preamble says
5 that the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear
6 weapons for all times is a goal of eventual negotiations. In
7 other words, the U.S. is basically committed to a
8 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

9 Whether any President actually wants it or not,
10 that's another matter. I'm sure many Presidents probably
11 didn't even mean it. But, nevertheless, on paper they're
12 committed toward negotiating such a treaty.

13 Now, Glenn Seaborg for ten years -- this is
14 Professor Glenn Seaborg now at UC Berkeley, Nobel Prize
15 winner for the discovery of plutonium. He was the head of
16 the Atomic Energy Commission for ten years from '61 to '71.
17 He stated that when he was in charge of the agency, that the
18 design policy at that time was one which would be compatible
19 with going to a test ban and a comprehensive treaty.

20 But after 1971 there were some changes in the design
21 policy as the nuclear designs became more efficient and more
22 sophisticated. An example is Dr. Roger Batzel of the
23 Livermore Laboratory in testimony at the House Armed Services
24 Committee on September 18, '85 said:

25 "I have the responsibility to
26 certify that all weapons that have
27 been designed at my laboratory will
28 function when and if they are ever

1 needed. These weapons were
2 designed under the assumption that
3 nuclear testing would continue, so
4 that if any problem ever arose in
5 the stockpile, a nuclear test could
6 be performed to help certify that
7 the weapon would continue to work
8 as it was designed to."

9 Now, what this means to me is that the labs are
10 assuming that there never will be a test ban treaty. They've
11 had good luck in promoting that belief for the last 25 years.
12 I think the lab managements are rather confident that they
13 can continue blocking a test ban treaty at the present time.

14 Now, from a purely technological sense, it's
15 obviously inappropriate and unreasonable to continue testing
16 to make sure your weapons work properly. Nevertheless, there
17 are large political considerations which have perhaps not
18 been taken into account.

19 The laboratories have been able to push the designs
20 up to the limits of what is possible and make these very
21 sophisticated weapons from which they can turn around an
22 argument and say that our weapons are so sophisticated and so
23 delicate that we must continue testing. Otherwise, in later
24 years we may make some things that won't work and our
25 stockpile reliability will go down.

26 So, in my opinion the laboratories themselves have
27 created a self-perpetuating situation. They've created a
28 built-in argument against ever having a nuclear test ban

1 treaty. A very, very important point.

2 Now, to go on further. It's quite true, as has been
3 discussed here several times by several people, that there
4 have been problems with some of the nuclear weapon designs
5 that were supposedly all properly tested and proven. Thus,
6 last spring in testimony to the Senate Foreign Affairs
7 Committee Dr. Roger Batzel responded to a question by Senator
8 Kennedy about whether nuclear testing was needed to guarantee
9 reliable stockpile. And his answer included the sentence:

10 "In actual fact, in the 25 years
11 since testing resumed after the
12 1958-1961 moratorium, one-third of
13 all modern weapon designs that were
14 thoroughly tested before entering
15 the stockpile have required
16 post-deployment nuclear tests."

17 In other words, there's been some apparent real
18 technical deficiencies. Now, we're not really blaming
19 anybody for this fact. But the point is that the
20 laboratories now are making it a very big point that proven
21 weapon designs in fact were not so proven after all and
22 require a lot of nuclear testing to correct troubles.

23 Now, this argument, I submit, has emerged as one of
24 the most important arguments from the Reagan administration
25 against a nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union.

26 To add to the statement, Dr. Paul Brown -- right
27 here -- recently in a talk pointed out that the -- Dr.
28 Batzel's statement -- "one-third of all modern weapon

1 designs" actually meant 14 weapon designs out of a total of
2 41 had defects. Thus 41 designs were put in the stockpile,
3 what, 26 years ago; 14 of which had defects which extensively
4 needed further testing. This morning you heard Dr. Ray
5 Kidder dispute eight of those examples.

6 Now, at least a few people in the weapons
7 laboratories do not believe that the statements by Dr. Batzel
8 and Dr. Brown really support the contention that continued
9 testing is essential to maintain a reliable stockpile.

10 Our interpretation is that in fact most of these 14
11 designs -- at least the ones we know about -- were simply for
12 various reasons inadequately tested before they were put in
13 the stockpile. But when you have a truly proven nuclear
14 weapon design, it should be possible both to maintain its
15 lifetime -- its lifetime being 15 or 20 years -- and that at
16 the end of that time to replace it by identical copies,
17 remanufactured copies, and thus guarantee a reliable
18 stockpile of weapons for deterrence purposes for years and
19 decades after a test ban.

20 Of course, this requires that you have to have the
21 exact same materials. There's an argument about whether
22 those materials would be available. But many of us think
23 they should be available.

24 Professor Glenn Seaborg again has pointed out that
25 the kind of reliability testing that's being discussed
26 currently was never an issue when he was head of the Atomic
27 Energy Commission in the 60's and that he doesn't believe
28 that the arguments given now are truly necessary to maintain

1 a reliable stockpile.

2 But these are technical questions which are often
3 obscured by classification barriers. Thus, it's difficult to
4 address many of them in an open forum like this. We can only
5 talk about truly unclassified matters. Some of the issues
6 are classified and thus require experts with proper
7 clearances to address them.

8 Now, it's my opinion that what is needed is a
9 careful examination of these reliability arguments by a
10 committee of outside expert scientists with full access to
11 all classified information. The laboratory spokesmen are all
12 good, decent people sitting right here in front of me. But,
13 nevertheless, there can be bias and a purpose in some of the
14 statements.

15 So, what I'm calling for is that these arguments,
16 complete with classification restrictions, be looked at
17 carefully by other competent scientists outside who can
18 assess the arguments and come up with an independent
19 judgment.

20 Now, I wanted to also comment on just another of Dr.
21 Brown's statements. He gave four reasons for why we do
22 nuclear testing. I won't recite them all, but they were
23 quite clear. The number two reason was modernization of the
24 stockpile to take it against new military needs.

25 The fact is in my observation the bulk of nuclear
26 testing done in Nevada is -- and that's modernization. But
27 it's much more than that. The modernization of our stockpile
28 actually means the development of new weapons designs, the

1 exuberant continuation of the whole development process.
2 And, particularly, in the last several years there's been a
3 new class of nuclear weapons that have come into discussion.
4 These are the directed energy nuclear weapons proposed for
5 the Strategic Defense Initiative; nuclear bombs which will
6 explode and put some effects of energy into a beam that will
7 go in a straight line through space or maybe through
8 atmosphere to impact on a target.

9 The nuclear pumped x-ray laser example is the prime
10 example. But there's a number of other devices that will
11 generate microwaves, for example; all of which are being
12 researched with great enthusiasm at the Livermore Laboratory
13 and at Los Alamos to a lesser extent.

14 This kind of effort keeps laboratories in business.
15 It's exciting, interesting technical work. Whether it's good
16 for the world, that's another matter. I tend to think it's
17 not. I tend to think that it should be put on hold for two
18 or three decades.

19 But this kind of work goes far beyond just the
20 question of modernization and maintenance of stockpile
21 reliability. In my opinion, the laboratories are in the
22 business of continued nuclear weapons development full scale,
23 full blast for the rest of this century. I believe that is
24 the primary reason why the laboratories are so utterly and
25 strongly opposed to any form of a nuclear test ban.

26 So, my points then are I believe that the weapon
27 types themselves de facto dictate U.S. nuclear weapons design
28 policy to a very large extent and that this is the basis for

1 the Reagan administration's opposition right now to any kind
2 of a test ban. I mean, they're working hand in glove.

3 I further maintain that the strongest arguments in a
4 technical sense that the laboratories have come up with
5 against a test ban has been this reliability question. I
6 believe if this were examined carefully by a group of
7 unbiased -- if you can find such people -- competent
8 scientists with access to all relevant classified
9 information, the case against continued testing for stockpile
10 reliability would not really hold up.

11 It should be examined. I may be wrong. But that is
12 my belief and my opinion from my knowledge as a staff member.

13 I would further comment that the University of
14 California is a nominal manager of the weapons laboratories.
15 The University is not really equipped to do this job very
16 well.

17 In the next session I'll speak to the Scientific
18 Advisory Committee, which is the only group that can look at
19 it. The Scientific Advisory Committee for the laboratories
20 that reports to the UC president has not yet done this job.
21 If it can't do it, then the Congress should find some other
22 body of scientists who can look at these arguments and assess
23 them and either approve them or disprove them. I think I'll
24 stop there.

25 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you so much, Dr. DeWitt.

26 I'm going to ask that the presentors please stay
27 within the ten-minute timeframe so we can get through the
28 other panel, too.

1 Dr. Ray Kidder, Lawrence Livermore National
2 Laboratories.

3 DR. KIDDER: This morning I was dealing with what,
4 I'm afraid, were somewhat overly technical questions having
5 to do with the problems in stockpile that have been observed
6 over the past. This afternoon I want to talk much more
7 directly to affairs having to do with the University of
8 California itself and particularly in connection with the
9 University of California's Scientific and Academic Advisory
10 Committee.

11 Now, I've had firsthand experience with an important
12 aspect of this involvement -- that is, the involvement of the
13 University of California in the design of nuclear weapons --
14 for nearly a decade. It's my conclusion -- and I'm sorry to
15 say this -- that the University has not done an adequate job
16 of overseeing the two weapons laboratories it operates under
17 its contract with the Department of Energy. That's
18 particularly so with regard to the conformity of laboratory
19 operations with national policy priority. Let me briefly
20 outline the basis for this conclusion.

21 In 1963 -- I think this has been mentioned before,
22 but it's worth repeating -- the signatories to the Limited
23 Test Ban Treaty -- the United States, the United Kingdom and
24 the Soviet Union -- stated that they sought to achieve a
25 treaty resulting in the permanent banning of all nuclear test
26 explosions. This goal was reaffirmed in the Nuclear
27 Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968, the Threshold Test Ban
28 Treaty in 1974 and it was supported by at least the five most

1 recent administrations, including the present one.

2 Now, in 1977, which is ten years ago, a decade ago
3 that I'm referring to, shortly after Senator Edward Kennedy
4 had introduced a resolution in the Senate calling for a
5 Comprehensive Test Ban, I brought to the attention of the
6 Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee -- and to save
7 time I'm going to call it the SAAC -- of the University my
8 concern that the weapons labs seemed to be conducting their
9 nuclear weapons design work in a manner prejudicial to the
10 national policy option of the CTB, Comprehensive Test Ban.

11 The Scientific Advisory Committee is that committee
12 reporting to the University president whose responsibility it
13 is to oversee the scientific activities of the two nuclear
14 weapons laboratories. So, they're the ones that are involved
15 with these interactions between the University and the
16 weapons labs.

17 Now, in 1978 -- that's a year later -- Roger Batzel,
18 Director of the Livermore Lab then and now, stated, "I
19 believe the continued credibility of the U.S. nuclear weapon
20 deterrent cannot be assured for long without nuclear
21 testing." That's a plain, frank statement.

22 Again, in 1982 -- now, you'll notice five years have
23 gone by. I wasn't quite as persistent as I suppose I should
24 have been on this matter -- I tried to engage the attention
25 of the SAAC in the matter of our nuclear weapons planning
26 vis-a-vis the possibility of a test ban in a written
27 statement dated February 23rd. This statement closed with
28 the words:

1 "It has occurred to me that
2 technical questions concerning the
3 performance of nuclear weapons may
4 be out of bounds to the Committee.
5 In as much as the design of nuclear
6 weapons is the principal reason for
7 the laboratories' existence, I
8 would hope that such is not the
9 case."

10 I was assured by the Committee that such was not the
11 case and that the issue I had raised had troubled it for some
12 time. I was led to believe that it would be placed on the
13 Committee agenda for a future meeting.

14 I then wrote to David Saxon, president of the
15 University, bringing the matter to his attention and urging
16 him to direct the SAAC to look into it. I'm going to read
17 this letter I wrote. It's very short. I'm going to read it.

18 "Dear Dr. Saxon."

19 This is dated July 2, 1982.

20 "At the February 25 meeting of the
21 LLNL and LANL Scientific and
22 Academic Advisory Committee I
23 submitted a written proposal for
24 action by the Committee that
25 concerns a matter of vital
26 significance for national policy
27 concerning nuclear weapons (copy
28 enclosed). The Committee agreed

1 that the issue was indeed
2 important, had troubled it for some
3 time and would be placed on its
4 agenda for discussion at a future
5 meeting. The chairman explained
6 that the agenda for the July
7 meeting had already been decided
8 upon, but he assured me that it
9 would be placed on the agenda at a
10 subsequent meeting as soon as
11 practicable.

12 "The Committee will be meeting in
13 Livermore on July 8-9 and will, I
14 assume, report to you shortly
15 thereafter. If you agree that the
16 question of the necessity of
17 continued nuclear weapon testing is
18 an important technical question
19 ..." A technical question, not a
20 political question "... that lies
21 within the proper purview of the
22 Advisory Committee and that needs
23 to be settled, then I hope you will
24 encourage the Committee to take it
25 up at its next meeting. I believe
26 this question transcends in
27 importance most, if not all, of the
28 questions customarily addressed by

1 the Committee.

2 "I would welcome any comment you
3 may care to make concerning this
4 matter.

5 "Sincerely, Ray E. Kidder,
6 Associate Division Leader,
7 Theoretical Physics Division."

8 A copy went to Mr. John Henning, who was a Regent of
9 the University at that time and was the chairman of the
10 Regents Oversight Committee for the laboratories. And a copy
11 went to Professor Harold Weaver, who was the chairman of the
12 SAAC at that time. So, that's what went from me to them.

13 In spite of my efforts and my expectations that the
14 SAAC would put the issue on its agenda, nothing was done.

15 I was eventually informed verbally by Dr. Harold
16 Glaser, then Special Assistant to President Saxon, that the
17 SAAC had decided it was not a proper forum to consider
18 questions of nuclear weapons program planning.

19 I want to be very clear that what was involved here
20 are scientific issues having to do with nuclear weapons.
21 They have nothing to do with politics or policies about arms
22 control or things of that kind. We were asking and we
23 explicitly made the statement clear and it was understood by
24 the Committee that this was a technical issue.

25 In the fall of '85 -- that was another three years
26 that went by and we're getting up to date and this has been
27 mentioned just a few minutes ago -- Roger Batzel testified
28 before a committee of Congress that these weapons were

1 designed under the assumption that nuclear testing would
2 continue.

3 All right, now combined with Dr. Batzel's earlier
4 statement that we had to continue nuclear testing, as I read
5 earlier, this frank admission clearly implied that our
6 nuclear weapons had been so designed -- had been so
7 designed -- that a ban on nuclear testing would threaten our
8 national security. This was precisely the situation that I
9 saw developing at least as early as a decade ago.

10 Now, more recently -- or I should say most
11 recently -- a group of University physics professors
12 expressed their concern to the University President -- and
13 I'm quoting from their letter:

14 "That the weapons laboratories
15 design strategies over the last
16 decade or more are said to be
17 inconsistent with a Comprehensive
18 Test Ban in the foreseeable
19 future."

20 Now, my conclusion is that the University of
21 California and the Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee
22 have not done their job in overseeing the principal activity
23 of the weapons laboratories. The principal activity of the
24 weapons laboratories is nuclear weapons design.

25 Neglect of this important responsibility has
26 contributed to the present dilemma in which the weapons labs
27 claim to have foreclosed -- and, I mean, they claim to have
28 foreclosed it -- the stated national policy goal of a

1 Comprehensive Test Ban by the manner in which our nuclear
2 weapons have been designed.

3 I'd also like to point out that the design cycle for
4 nuclear weapons is a very long process these days. What it
5 amounts to is that from the point at which a decision is made
6 to study something at the weapons labs as an idea phase to
7 the time when it finally is deployed in our stockpile, the
8 time for that to happen these days is about ten years.

9 In other words, what I'm saying hear is that
10 decisions that are made today will influence this country ten
11 years from now when it comes to nuclear weapons design. So
12 that had something been done about this -- at least had the
13 University of California in my view done its job and looked
14 into this issue ten years ago when I first brought it to its
15 attention -- I don't know that I was the first one that did,
16 but I did it then -- we might not be in this fix that we're
17 in right now. So, that's the bad news.

18 The good news is that there is, however, some
19 indication that the Scientific Advisory Committee may at long
20 last be willing to do something. Better late than never.
21 Two months ago I received a verbal request from its chairman,
22 Professor Frederick Reines, for information concerning my
23 evaluation of evidence that the weapons labs had presented to
24 demonstrate the necessity of continued nuclear explosive
25 testing, which I've described to you this morning; to which I
26 have replied. That is, to Fred Reines. This has induced in
27 me a state of mind that I would describe as cautious
28 optimism.

1 I might say that I'm slightly more than cautiously
2 optimistic, but only slightly. I received a telephone call
3 yesterday morning from the chairman of the SAAC, Fred Reines,
4 asking me for further information and telling me that he and
5 his committee do intend to look into this issue. So, I just
6 heard that yesterday morning after I had written this
7 statement about cautious optimism. But that sounds good to
8 me.

9 Now, finally, my criticism of the University's
10 oversight of the weapons lab should not be construed as a
11 reason to sever that relationship. Quite the contrary. This
12 may sound funny coming from me. The reason is simple. Were
13 it not for the freedom to express dissenting views that this
14 relationship encourages and affords, I would not be able to
15 present these views to you here this afternoon.

16 So, that is what I think about the relationship. I
17 think it should be continued. I think it's an important
18 protection. I think it's part of the principle of the
19 civilian control, if you will, of nuclear weaponry that is
20 very fundamental to this country.

21 On the other hand, I believe that the exercise of
22 that responsibility by the University through the Scientific
23 Advisory Committee ought to be made a lot stronger than it
24 has been in the past and particularly in relation to this
25 issue. I'm encouraged by what I heard from Fred Reines
26 yesterday morning to believe that maybe it's going to be.
27 Thank you.

28 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you for your candid

1 remarks, Dr. Kidder.

2 I'd like to call on now John Holdren. Dr. Holdren
3 is a physics professor at UC Berkeley.

4 DR. HOLDREN: I am John Holdren. I am a Professor
5 of Energy and Resources at the University of California's
6 Berkeley campus. I'm the immediate past chairman of the
7 Federation of American Scientists and I was in 1970 to 1972 a
8 fulltime member of the technical staff at the Lawrence
9 Livermore Laboratory where I worked as a theoretical plasma
10 physicist in the Magnetic Fusion Energy Division.

11 I did have some prior involvement in the nuclear
12 arms race. From 1961 to 1969 I worked at the Lockheed
13 Missiles and Space Company in a variety of capacities,
14 including on reconnaissance satellites on the Polaris system,
15 on the Poseidon system and in a number of other programs.

16 I also have some history in looking at the
17 relationship between the University of California and the
18 weapons laboratories in that I was a member of the study
19 conducted by the Energy Research Advisory Board of the U.S.
20 Department of Energy of that relationship in the 1978-79
21 period. In fact, I think that was the study quoted by Vice
22 President Frazer this morning. In fact, I was the author of
23 the minority report in that particular study from which he, I
24 believe, quoted the majority of the Board.

25 I mention all this to establish as a preface to my
26 testimony here that I do have some familiarity with the
27 history of the arms race with the Livermore Lab and with the
28 relation between the University and the Lab. I'm going to

1 talk about both of those issues.

2 There are two panels, I understand, this afternoon.
3 This first one, The Conformity of Laboratory Operations with
4 National Priority Priorities, is one that calls for a broad
5 approach. The second one deals with the University
6 relationship. I propose to divide my remarks along those
7 lines.

8 I have for the record two brief statements, one
9 addressing each of those two points. Both are recycled, as
10 is our inclination in the energy and resources program, from
11 previous presentations. But they do directly address the
12 issues on the agenda here.

13 With respect to the conformity of lab operations
14 with national policy priorities, in a sense the problem at
15 the moment is the lab policy is completely compatible with
16 the stated U.S. policy priorities at the moment. Those
17 priorities at the moment are that a Comprehensive Test Ban is
18 a long-term goal, but most specifically not a short-term goal
19 of the present U.S. administration.

20 I think it's worth quoting here a letter to that
21 effect that was written on behalf of Secretary of Defense
22 Weinberger by Frank Gaffney, the Deputy Assistant Secretary
23 of Defense for nuclear forces and an arms control policy to
24 Congressman Markey a little over a year ago, January 1986, in
25 response to an inquiry about what the Department of Defense
26 position on a CTB is. One of the last sentences in that
27 letter is as follows:

28 "I believe there is historical

1 consistency in our position that a
2 Comprehensive Test Ban is a
3 long-term objective to be achieved
4 in the context of verifiable arms
5 reduction, substantially improved
6 verification capabilities, expanded
7 confidence-building measures,
8 greater balance in conventional
9 forces and at a time when a nuclear
10 deterrent is no longer as essential
11 of an element as currently for
12 international security and
13 stability."

14 That's a rather long series of conditions including
15 especially the last and it's part of a letter that states
16 very clearly again that the present policy of the U.S.
17 Executive Branch is definitely not to support a Comprehensive
18 Test Ban.

19 This leads to my central point here. The problem at
20 the moment, I believe, is that the diligent pursuit by the
21 laboratories of their duties as traditionally defined has in
22 fact been helping to drive the nuclear arms race; and,
23 further, that the effect of that nuclear arms race, which has
24 been driven in part by the diligent pursuit of the
25 laboratories of their duties, has been and continues to be to
26 undermine rather than reinforce our national security. That
27 is, that the nuclear arms race has on the whole been making
28 us not safer, but less safe as time goes on.

1 Now, if this is in fact so -- and I'll return to the
2 arguments that lead some people to suppose that it is so.
3 But if it is so, then the idea that the University management
4 of the weapons laboratories is a public service is at least
5 problematical and certainly needs to be looked at more
6 closely. Again, I'll come to that in the second panel later
7 this afternoon.

8 But let me return for the moment to this central
9 question of national policy priorities and whether the
10 diligent pursuit by the laboratories of their duties as
11 defined under those priorities is helping us or hurting us.

12 I would suggest that the real danger associated with
13 the nuclear arms race does not reside very much in the
14 numbers of nuclear weapons per se or in the total
15 megatonnage. What is really dangerous is that the chance
16 that these weapons will actually be used, which in my view is
17 already intolerably high, has been made even higher by a
18 series of changes in the qualitative characteristics of the
19 weapons that have been going on on both sides over the years
20 under the mantle of modernization.

21 Modernization is the term that is used by both sides
22 to justify the series of innovations in nuclear weapons
23 technology that in fact on the whole and in the main, I
24 think, have made us less safe.

25 Now, I would suggest that that has happened in three
26 different ways. That is, we have been made less safe by
27 three different elements of this process that has gone on in
28 the nuclear arms race.

1 The most obvious one is that both sides have been
2 deploying strategic nuclear weapons whose combination of
3 explosive power and accuracy and flight time gives them
4 disturbing capabilities for pre-emptive attack against the
5 nuclear forces of the other side. That situation promotes
6 mutual fears of a disarming first strike and encourages
7 hair-trigger postures in which the chance of a nuclear war
8 through electronic or mechanical malfunction combined with
9 human error becomes considerable.

10 The second way that trends in nuclear deployments
11 have been making us less safe rather than more safe has been
12 through the integration of short-range and medium-range
13 nuclear weapon systems with our conventional forces in ways
14 that increase the chance that conventional conflicts will
15 become nuclear.

16 Now, in large part this has been deliberative, a
17 deliberative part of our strategy in trying to use nuclear
18 weapons to deter conventional conflict. By making it so
19 likely that a conventional conflict will become nuclear, any
20 potential adversaries would be afraid to start even a
21 conventional war.

22 This policy, as well motivated as it may have been,
23 I think has been profoundly in error and has led again to the
24 deployment of specific nuclear forces which we were able to
25 develop and deploy through nuclear testing; which have made
26 the chances of any conventional conflict of whatever cause
27 becoming a nuclear conflict. These chances have become
28 again, I think, intolerably high.

1 The third way and the most solid way -- but not the
2 least important -- the trends in the nuclear arms race have
3 been aggravating our security dilemma, have been undermining
4 our security is that nuclear weapons can no longer be
5 considered merely the symptom of an underlying nuclear
6 confrontation. They now have to be considered also part of
7 the cause of the problem.

8 By this I mean the following: Deployment of nuclear
9 weapons in particularly threatening postures become perceived
10 as evidence of pernicious intentions. That builds
11 resentments, it heightens the tensions, it provokes
12 counter-deployments that feed the whole arms race spiral of
13 action and reaction and counter-reaction.

14 Lots of people look at the arms race and they say,
15 look, the real problem is the U.S.-Soviet relationship. But
16 they are only partly right. It is true that if the United
17 States and the Soviet Union got along like the United States
18 and Canada, neither side would have any use for these huge
19 arsenals of nuclear weapons. But the way the United States
20 and the Soviet Union continue to shove nuclear weapons of
21 ever more threatening forms in each other's faces is in fact
22 feeding that controversy. Again, it can no longer be
23 considered just a symptom of an underlying problem, but it
24 really is a contributing cause of that hostility.

25 Now, the final question I want to address before
26 stopping and coming eventually to the second panel on the
27 University's role is this question of whether testing itself,
28 nuclear testing itself, has been a very important force in

1 driving this arms race process whose unsettling
2 characteristics I've been complaining about. It is certainly
3 true that nuclear testing has not been the only force driving
4 this process. Lots of other things have been at work. But
5 it has been a crucial force.

6 By the testimony of the nuclear weapons makers
7 themselves, a nuclear warhead is such a sophisticated and
8 finely-tuned piece of equipment that almost any change in the
9 delivery vehicle or the launch system or even the mission
10 profile may in some circumstances require a new warhead
11 design.

12 What this suggests is that if you cannot have new
13 warhead designs, if you cannot do nuclear testing and you
14 will not have new designs, then you will not have new
15 delivery systems, new capabilities, new attempts to nourish
16 the illusion that nuclear weapons have military functions,
17 military purposes, detailed missions that they can carry out.

18 It was only through nuclear testing that we were
19 able to develop nuclear weapons compact enough and durable
20 enough to fit in a six-inch artillery shell and thus
21 permitting the almost complete integration of nuclear
22 conventional forces. It was only through nuclear testing
23 that we were able to develop a warhead at once powerful
24 enough and light enough to be mounted 3, 5 or 14 at a time on
25 a single missile; producing the multiple independent re-entry
26 vehicles that made it possible economically to attack the
27 silo base missile forces of the other side, produce the
28 window of vulnerability and destabilize the arms race to an

1 appalling degree.

2 It will only be through nuclear testing that we will
3 get a bomb pumped x-ray laser; which has further
4 destabilizing possibilities that could be the cause of
5 another hour's argument here, but which I will skip.

6 The central point is, again, this part of my
7 testimony -- and I'll stop here -- that the matter of a
8 Comprehensive Test Ban is not peripheral to the nuclear arms
9 race and our safety, it's absolutely central and that we must
10 expect the nuclear weapons laboratories, given their
11 obligations and given present national priorities, to oppose
12 a Comprehensive Test Ban and to advocate the continuation of
13 nuclear testing. That shouldn't surprise anybody at all and
14 it shouldn't be the cause of any accusations that the weapons
15 laboratories are not doing their jobs as traditionally
16 defined.

17 I think the question for the University of
18 California again is a larger one. It's whether that job as
19 traditionally defined is one that is actually improving the
20 national security of the United States and, if it is not,
21 what the University's role should be in improving that
22 situation for the better. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you so much.

25 I did want to -- Senator Torres. I wanted to
26 acknowledge that Senator Torres -- I wanted to introduce you
27 as you went out the door. Thank you for participating,
28 Senator Art Torres. Thank you.

1 Dr. Carson Mark with the Los Alamos National
2 Laboratories, retired.

3 Dr. Mark.

4 DR. MARK: Madam Chairman. First, I should identify
5 myself. I joined the Los Alamos staff in 1945 and stayed
6 with it until I retired in 1973. Through that time I was the
7 head, the nominal head, of the group that was responsible for
8 weapon design at Los Alamos. That period went from the first
9 crude fission bombs through to fairly advanced modern
10 warheads. I was continually involved in that activity for
11 that period.

12 I think in the interest of time, if you really have
13 4:00 in mind, I should try to say very little. Indeed, I
14 don't know that it's necessary to say very much.

15 A lot of topics have been introduced and various
16 things said about them in the course of both the first panel
17 and this panel. I might like to just refer back to two or
18 three of the things already taken up and either complicate
19 the issue or throw a different light on it or something of
20 that sort.

21 I might say that one of the things that's received a
22 lot of discussion is the need of continuing testing for
23 reliability of the weapons which are already tested and in
24 stockpile. I think it was -- I know it was 1978 -- getting
25 close to ten years ago -- that I and Richard Garwin, who was
26 here this morning, and Norris Bradbury, who was the director
27 of Los Alamos for the period since the war up until 1970,
28 wrote a letter saying this testing is not necessary for

1 reliability of the existing weapons if you do several things.
2 That is, make certain that you do not change them, don't
3 introduce modifications, don't attempt any improvements; but
4 make sure that you have a very intensive surveillance program
5 that is supported and that you're prepared to rebuild a
6 weapon if it shows that it's having trouble and you think you
7 still need it and such things as that.

8 It's not a new topic to me. The things that Garwin
9 said on that subject this morning sound to me just like we've
10 been talking for the last ten years.

11 Now, it has been made into a big point and the
12 administration's expressed concern about the fact that a test
13 ban is not in the national interest and to the present lab
14 directors' expressions on that same point. I still think
15 that some of the arguments they use in support of that
16 position are either irrelevant or I even think some of them
17 are embarrassing that such fine people could make such sloppy
18 arguments.

19 It has been said we must keep our scientists,
20 because we might want to make changes if they're directed by
21 military requirements to require a change. Well, that is not
22 the same thing as saying that a weapon that's in the
23 stockpile is going to get sick. It's going to say that any
24 weapon you might build or the modification you might
25 introduce without a test cannot be accepted.

26 Now, that point is absolutely 100 percent true from
27 my point of view. You should not put into the stockpile
28 weapons which have not been tested in the form in which you

1 expect to be using them. We heard that during the 1958-61
2 moratorium. It has been said we put weapons in the stockpile
3 at that time. Not many, but maybe only five or six hundred
4 of one particular model. Not many. When tested after the
5 moratorium, they disappointed us very badly by a factor of at
6 least two in their yield.

7 That established the theorem you mustn't do that.
8 It didn't establish the theorem that a test ban is bad for
9 us. It's just very clear the other way.

10 I wanted to throw that in on this subject of
11 reliability. I know it's being made a main point. I think
12 that is not a correct point. I don't really feel that the
13 people who make the point are in any degree dishonest;
14 although the point is, of course, self-serving and is
15 accepted by people in Washington who don't know any better
16 and don't wish to look any deeper as if it were a real point
17 and, therefore, we know the answer.

18 Given the situation, then I come back to what John
19 Holdren was just saying. The labs, although they may have
20 influenced the national policy priorities, cannot be accused
21 of not attempting to respond to what they are told are the
22 national policy priorities.

23 They influence them not so much by political action.
24 They're asked to appear and give their opinions. The
25 directors of the labs must be in the position of responding
26 on demand to requests from groups like this or congressional
27 committees or members of the administration and the public,
28 even the media. They must be left that freedom and they will

1 say what they think. We hope they will say what they believe
2 to be true. If they're mistaken about that, then the effects
3 are unfortunate. I think on this reliability point they are
4 mistaken or they've picked up the wrong arguments and could
5 be challenged somewhat on that.

6 However, they cannot be accused of not following
7 what they have been given to understand are the national
8 policy priorities. Those are settled by the administration
9 departments in Washington and the administration itself and
10 negotiated with the Congress. The Congress supplies money
11 for some projects which is in their view consistent with
12 their priorities and if it's some other project, they don't.

13 The labs really don't have any wide freedom of
14 choice beyond following the directives which they have to
15 keep working and developing innovative ideas and whenever you
16 do, come and tell us.

17 When they come and tell them these innovative ideas,
18 they sound attractive. They may even fit some need that the
19 Air Force feels it has or the Navy or whoever and get adopted
20 as part of the national priorities. But they don't decide
21 that it is. They're not in the position to decide that it
22 is, although they may very possible influence the decision.
23 If they influence it, they make it quite clear in their
24 action.

25 As I said, the directors have to be free to respond
26 on demand to inquiries from a wide range of sections of the
27 public. It has been suggested here that they have been
28 uniform in their response to those inquiries concerning this

1 CTB that the CTB is bad.

2 Now, I think there's no question the CTB would be
3 bad -- it would be fatal -- for a directive which its thought
4 was to develop new weapons. You shouldn't bother developing
5 new weapons if you had a CTB. They think that -- and so they
6 say the CTB would be bad and they're right about that. I
7 think they give wrong or dubious or half-baked reasons, but
8 they're certainly right. We can't develop new weapons if we
9 have a CTB. That, of course, in my point of view would be
10 one of the great features of having a CTB.

11 I'm sure you're all aware that we used to be
12 completely safe from nuclear weapons in 1945 and even in
13 1959. From that time on we have been less and less safe from
14 nuclear weapons and less and less secure. So, not making a
15 change in that progress in those fundamental national policy
16 directives is simply going to keep us on the same slope that
17 new weapons will come into our hands and into the hands of
18 our opponents and we will become less secure and more
19 concerned and properly more concerned.

20 I would like to remind people of two things which
21 have not come up in the discussion so far. Back in 1961
22 approximately when the treaty was being negotiated which
23 later became in '63 the Limited Test Ban -- only test
24 underground -- in the first discussions of that it was
25 discussed as a total test ban. But it got switched to a
26 limited test ban in the course of the arguments in Washington
27 both pro and con.

28 Norris Bradbury, then director of Los Alamos, took a

1 statement to the joint congressional committee, which I don't
2 have here verbatim, but I have it very much in content, that
3 these weapons we design cannot be used for any rational or
4 desirable purpose. But until arrangements exist ensuring no
5 occasion for their use, we must keep working on them. We
6 think of ourselves as buying time until that political
7 objective can be achieved.

8 Now, that is hardly the kind of thing you've been
9 hearing today as lab directors' statements on national
10 priorities. I think it was a very respectable statement. I
11 think it should still be thought of as true, as applicable.

12 The other thing I would like to mention and then
13 I'll get off the air is we have talked to the Regents'
14 management of the laboratories. Of course, the Regents don't
15 manage the laboratories, they manage the contract. The
16 contract is for the labs to do what the Department of Energy
17 tells them they would like to see done to the extent they
18 can.

19 I think in managing that contract the Regents have
20 always felt they've done an admirable job. They have kept
21 the labs free to the extent possible from micromanagement
22 from the offices in Washington. They're one of the few
23 contractors which would have had either the courage or the
24 inherent strength to not be easily influenced to change their
25 mind that one could have found.

26 Anyway, we've talked of that management almost only
27 in connection with the test ban. But that management -- I
28 believe, Madam Chairman, you said \$1.8 billion. Very close

1 to half of that \$1.8 billion is for work of which one would
2 be proud in California that the University was helping that
3 work along has not got to do with weapons at all. At Los
4 Alamos -- and I know that the same applies in Livermore -- an
5 attempt to make a massive catalog of genes, which is of
6 enormous use for genetic studies, is being supported and is
7 in progress. Fusion power, as Holdren pointed out, is done
8 at those labs.

9 You may have heard of the Meson factory at Los
10 Alamos, a unique machine in the country used by people all
11 across the country; much like the Stanford Linear Accelerator
12 in its field is used at Stanford.

13 Half of the money spent at Los Alamos administered
14 by the Regents comes very properly under the heading of
15 constituting a national asset and being an activity in the
16 public service. These don't change things you've heard, but
17 I think you need to broaden the thoughts here a little beyond
18 things which have been said earlier.

19 I'll leave it go at that so you'll have at least a
20 little time for the third panel.

21 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. Mark.

22 We're finished with Panel II. Are there any
23 questions, Assemblyman Bates, of this panel?

24 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I'd like to pursue Dr. DeWitt's
25 suggestion about having a group of scientists pursue the
26 reliability question.

27 I'm wondering how would you suggest that be done?
28 Is that in the purview of the University of California to

1 establish such a committee? In other words, in terms of
2 resolving the question of reliability. Are there adequate
3 people within the confines of the University? Scientists who
4 are either affiliated with the University or who would
5 participate in something like this?

6 DR. MARK: I would think of it as mechanically
7 possible. I'm not sure that it is just a role that should be
8 taken up by the University. It ought to be taken up by a
9 congressional group like Markey's. If, say, you assemble a
10 group, half of them might come from the University of
11 California to go into this allegation that Ray Kidder has
12 said was rather improperly based.

13 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Let me ask Dr. DeWitt.

14 DR. DeWITT: Among the nine candidates of the
15 University of California, there are a fair number of expert
16 scientists with the adequate background in physics, chemistry
17 and other technical disciplines and who have at various times
18 worked at the weapons laboratories as consultants or staff
19 members who have had proper clearances and still get them.
20 So, the expertise exists and the University of California can
21 assemble it.

22 The closest thing we have to it is the UC Academic
23 and Scientific Advisory Committee, which I'll speak to a
24 little next panel, which has been asked to look into some of
25 these technical questions. Now, I think they could make a
26 good first pass at it if they have the will to do so. So far
27 that has not happened. It may happen this year.

28 In general, though, I do think that it's a broader

1 national issue and eventually Congress should appoint or
2 somehow constitute a group of independent experts that could
3 do the job.

4 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I agree with both of the two
5 speakers. It would be nice to have it done by the Congress.
6 In the meantime, the state -- we fund the University of
7 California in terms of trying to hopefully influence some of
8 their direction. That would be a question that we could
9 legitimately ask them to look into.

10 Do you want to comment?

11 DR. KIDDER: Yes. I think the question --

12 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Give your name again for the
13 record, please.

14 DR. KIDDER: Ray Kidder, Lawrence Livermore Lab.

15 I think what needs to be done is really pretty
16 simple. What needs to be done is something which is
17 different from what's happened in the past. What I mean by
18 something is it doesn't have to be that the University of
19 California assemble a group of its own physicists, for
20 example, and look into this. It seems to me at the very
21 least what would be required is for the University of
22 California to at least officially say something ought to be
23 done and make some recommendation. If that recommendation is
24 that an appropriate committee of Congress look into the
25 matter, so be it. That's fine.

26 The only thing that I've discovered in the past is
27 that the University of California has been unwilling to make
28 any official recommendation, however benign, in terms of its

1 own involvement in this issue. They, to use the familiar
2 phrase, in my direct experience with them have simply swept
3 this issue under the rug and have acted as though it didn't
4 exist and have stayed completely silent about the whole
5 issue.

6 So, I don't believe it's a question of getting the
7 University heavily involved in matters which the Department
8 of Energy is actually responsible for at all. It's to get
9 the University of California on record as at least
10 understanding that there is a big technical dispute going on
11 between people like me and people like some of the other
12 people at the labs and people like Garwin and Carson Mark
13 here and so on and understand that this is an important issue
14 and then make whatever recommendation the University thinks
15 might be appropriate, which might be nothing more than
16 writing a letter to some appropriate member of Congress and
17 saying, hey, the University of California Advisory Committee
18 has looked into this and we think something ought to be done.
19 We recommend this.

20 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Maybe Vice President Frazer will
21 speak to that when he comes up with the next panel.

22 So, it is possible for the University to do
23 something like this or it is possible that the University
24 requests that Congress do it to at least move this issue off
25 dead center.

26 Could I hear from the representatives of the labs
27 themselves? Would you support this kind of an effort?

28 DR. WHITE: We would certainly be happy to supply

1 whatever information and material might be useful to such a
2 group.

3 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: So, would you support it, yes or
4 no? Would you say that this is a question that you feel
5 needs to be looked at and that the University of California
6 ought to proceed to recommend to the national policy leaders
7 that they address this question of reliability?

8 DR. WHITE: I think that the question to the extent
9 that there is scientific dispute about the judgments that
10 have been made by the laboratories, we would welcome inquiry
11 into those judgments.

12 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Is that a yes?

13 DR. WHITE: Certainly, the laboratories feel that
14 they have made a qualified review of the positions and the
15 technical positions that they have taken. We would be happy,
16 as I say, in the spirit of scientific inquiry to explore
17 those conclusions again with any body.

18 I would point out that without presuming to say what
19 the committee might reach as its conclusions, the Scientific
20 and Academic Advisory Committee has spent hours with the
21 laboratories and I personally have spent time with them
22 addressing this issue. Now, what it is that they would
23 conclude about this issue, I cannot say in advance.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: But it is something that you say
25 warrants debate and discussion and you would participate in
26 that.

27 Well, then what is the problem? We've got the labs
28 to do it and we've just got to get the University to take the

1 next step.

2 Can I ask a question of -- in the morning I
3 addressed the question about verifiable. I was asking -- and
4 one member spoke to that. I would like to hear from the labs
5 about whether their view is that in fact we can have a
6 verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

7 DR. BROWN: Earlier in this session I submitted a
8 statement that was prepared by Dr. Jim Hannon of Livermore
9 that addressed that issue.

10 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: What is the answer?

11 DR. BROWN: The answer is long.

12 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Just yes or no. Just start with
13 yes or no.

14 DR. BROWN: No. The answer is today --

15 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: You don't believe it can be
16 done.

17 DR. BROWN: I don't think it can be verified
18 adequately to that --

19 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: At what level --

20 DR. BROWN: We're talking about levels of a few
21 kilotons.

22 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I don't know what that means.

23 DR. BROWN: Of explosive yield.

24 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: What does a few kilotons mean?

25 DR. BROWN: What was the yield of the Hiroshima
26 bomb? Thirteen kilotons. The order of -- the problems of a
27 Comprehensive Test Ban are -- there's two aspects of the
28 problem, detecting that an event has taken place and then

1 identifying it as to whether it's an earthquake or an
2 explosion.

3 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: So, you directly refute the
4 testimony that was given here today. What about some
5 scientific exploration of that question?

6 DR. BROWN: That is being explored. We have a very
7 active research program at the Livermore Laboratory. There
8 are some 40 people who are working fulltime in our
9 verification research program; most of which is involved with
10 seismic verification problems primarily of a Comprehensive
11 Test Ban Treaty, but also of Threshold Test Ban Treaty
12 matters.

13 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Could we argue that that group
14 is a self-serving group? Could I hear from someone else
15 after you're finished?

16 DR. BROWN: I do not believe that they are
17 self-serving.

18 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Who do you want to hear from?

19 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I don't care.

20 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Okay.

21 DR. HOLDREN: This is Professor John Holdren. If I
22 might make one addition to what Dr. Brown has just said.

23 Verification is never absolute. No arms control
24 agreement will ever be perfectly verifiable. None ever has
25 been. The judgment that Paul Brown was making when he says
26 he thinks it would not be adequately verifiable at the
27 present time is the judgment I make when I say in my view it
28 would be adequately verifiable at the present time is a

1 judgment that is based on weighing the dangers of cheating
2 below the threshold of detectability versus the dangers of
3 not having an agreement. I think that is the correct
4 comparison to make.

5 In my view the dangers of testing below the
6 threshold of detectability, the number of tests that could be
7 accomplished without a very serious chance of being detected,
8 compared to the number that would be required to obtain some
9 significant military event leaves me concluding that
10 although, of course, it's not perfectly verifiable, it would
11 be adequately verifiable.

12 But, again, you need to understand that reasonable
13 people looking at the same technical data about verification
14 can reach different judgments about what is adequate.

15 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: What about on site?

16 DR. HOLDREN: On site contributes to your ability to
17 verify. There's no question in my mind that the Soviets have
18 become in the last several years much more forthcoming about
19 the possibilities of on-site verification.

20 If we take them up on that and it turns out that
21 they are sincere and accommodating with respect to on-site
22 inspection, this will make the task of verification far
23 easier.

24 It still could not be perfect. That is, even with
25 the kinds of on-site agreements that you could imagine, there
26 would be some probability that some kinds of tests under
27 certain circumstances might escape detection. But the
28 judgment of those of us who say it's adequately verifiable is

1 that the danger associated with those little leaks is very
2 small compared to the danger of not having an agreement.

3 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Can I ask another question? It
4 would seem to me that if certain energy is released at a
5 certain level, you could pick that up. It would be a high
6 magnitude in terms of the amount of energy that was released.
7 So that at some point there might be an amount that could
8 be -- explosion that could occur that would be difficult to
9 determine whether or not it was an earthquake or some sort
10 of -- I mean, it would be in the gray area. But it would
11 have to be a relatively low yield, I would assume.

12 DR. HOLDREN: This is what the argument is about in
13 a way with lots of expert testimony from seismology.

14 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Is that fairly accurate that the
15 lower you get in terms of the amount of explosion, the
16 amount --

17 DR. HOLDREN: The lower you get, the tougher
18 verification is.

19 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: It seems like the thrust and the
20 drive is to try to get things that would be much more
21 explosion -- I mean, you try to test for new types of things
22 which would be the higher energy than the low levels.
23 Because the low level, even though they're important, are not
24 half as important as the other side of the equation.

25 DR. HOLDREN Unfortunately, many of the new types of
26 things would not necessarily be more powerful in explosive
27 yield. Their newness has to do with other kinds of
28 differences. Therefore, we have had -- although not ratified

1 and observed -- a Threshold Test Ban Treaty at 150 kilotons.
2 That is a yield about ten times that of the Hiroshima bomb.

3 It is quite conceivable that people could agree that
4 a Threshold Test Ban at around the level of the Hiroshima
5 bomb -- say 10 or 15 kilotons -- could be verified with very
6 high assurance.

7 In my opinion that would not be enough. I believe
8 that if we agree on a Threshold Test Ban Treaty with the
9 Soviet Union, the rest of the world would rightly regard that
10 as the major weapons powers fiddling with the rules in a way
11 that continues to make it easier for them to play the game
12 while others cannot. We could do a lot with testing below
13 10 kilotons.

14 DR. DeWITT: On the question about the Livermore
15 seismic group. I know quite a few people at the Livermore
16 seismic group and I also know very well seismologists outside
17 the laboratories and outside the government. I'm friends
18 with both. I must say I have a great respect for the
19 Livermore seismic people. I think that they do an honest job
20 and they are not self-serving in any sense. I speak as a
21 self-proclaimed laboratory critic from inside. These are
22 good people doing the best job they can.

23 In general, the laboratory seismic people would err
24 on the conservative side; but they are forthright in saying
25 that present seismological methods with adequate in-country
26 seismometers can pick up explosions down to a fairly low
27 level of a few kilotons with 90 percent probability. The
28 figure is anywhere from, say, 5 to 10 kilotons.

1 Unfortunately, that yield still allows a fair amount of
2 moderate nuclear weapons work if that were the choice of the
3 treaty.

4 Seismologists outside the laboratory -- and we heard
5 from Dr. Jack Evernden this morning in great detail --
6 maintain that in fact the yield is much lower than that --
7 down to 1 kiloton -- even with fully decoupled explosions.
8 That is, explosions in a cavity using new techniques of high
9 frequency seismic waves and in-country seismometers.

10 I think everything is moving in that direction. So
11 that whether Livermore group accepts it or not, the
12 convergence is toward the reliability being not a problem.
13 That is, the level of detectability of underground nuclear
14 tests and distinguishable earthquakes is down to the vicinity
15 of 1 or 2 kilotons.

16 Now, this is well below what is needed to develop
17 new strategic weapons. It wouldn't cut off developing
18 tactical weapons and it wouldn't cut off doing research on
19 these new directed energy weapons, at least some of them.

20 But, nevertheless, it might be a very important
21 advance in stopping the present ongoing nuclear arms race;
22 which is going to resume full blast when the Russians do
23 their testing. I think that's enough.

24 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I'm going to move us on to the
25 third and last panel in respect for the rushing of time.

26 Let me ask those people who have not made
27 presentations before to go first. So, I'm going to change
28 the arrangement of the last panel. I'm going to ask Dr.

1 Josephine Stein to make her presentation first, followed by
2 Dr. Harold Schwartz and Chrisopher Paine. Then we'll pick up
3 with Dr. Frazer, Dr. Holdren, Dr. Mark and Dr. DeWitt.

4 I'm wondering if this panel will address a concern
5 that I've had that's been running all day. That is the role
6 as they see it of the University and the social
7 responsibility and environmental conditions as a result of
8 nuclear testing that's done in accordance with policy.

9 Dr. Josephine Stein, with the American Association
10 for the Advancement of Science.

11 Dr. Stein.

12 DR. STEIN: Thank you very much, Senator Watson.
13 I'm Josephine Anne Stein. I'm a Ph.D. in mechanical
14 engineering from MIT. I'm presently in Washington as the
15 Science and Arms Control National Security Fellow of the
16 American Association of the Advancement of Science working in
17 the office of Congressman George Brown from Southern
18 California.

19 In my remarks I'm going to be covering some of the
20 same territory as the previous speakers and I will be
21 amplifying on some of the points that were raised earlier.

22 Ever since the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed in
23 1963, a Comprehensive Test Ban has been an explicit policy
24 objective of the United States. However, persistent and
25 influential opposition to a CTB from Lawrence Livermore
26 National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory has
27 repeatedly blocked its implementation. As far as I can tell,
28 the weapons laboratories managed by the University of

1 California are the primary source of technical information
2 that is used to oppose a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

3 Scientists associated with the weapons labs argue
4 that, first of all, that CTB would prevent technical advances
5 in weaponry and modernization of the nuclear arsenal; and
6 secondly, that it would be possible for the Soviets to cheat
7 under a CTB, gaining some military advantage.

8 Both of these lines of argument are specious.
9 Preventing modernization of nuclear weapons is precisely what
10 a CTB is intended to do in all of nuclear powers. The
11 Soviets would be prevented from developing a whole class of
12 more threatening weapons, as well as preventing further
13 innovations on the part of the United States and other powers
14 that could undermine our national security even further than
15 it has been already by the proliferation of more advanced
16 nuclear weapons.

17 A CTB is also viewed by non-nuclear states as
18 essentially to preserving the non-proliferation regime. A
19 CTB is in the national interest not only because it would
20 freeze in an American technical advantage, it would also help
21 freeze the membership of the nuclear club.

22 The other line of argument, that cheating by the
23 Soviets would give them some military advantage, is wrong on
24 two counts. First, as we've already heard today, technical
25 monitoring capabilities are such that it is virtually
26 impossible for the Soviets to conduct a series of nuclear
27 weapons development tests without detection using seismic
28 technology, as well as remote sensing and optical and radio

1 frequency. Disguising even one such test would be
2 exceedingly difficult and not without risk of detection.

3 More importantly, however, is that no new type of
4 nuclear weapon can provide a military advantage. Nuclear
5 explosives are not militarily useful as battlefield weapons.
6 Nuclear weapons are instruments of deterrence and deterrence
7 only. Deterrence rests upon the possibility of nuclear
8 retaliation, something that military planners must take with
9 the utmost seriousness irregardless of the status of nuclear
10 testing or the details of warhead design.

11 The laboratory scientists have used a parade of
12 arguments against the Comprehensive Test Ban that range from
13 misleading to preposterous to downright fallacious. In the
14 mid-50's Dr. Edward Teller argued that the Soviets could
15 cheat on a Comprehensive Test Ban by testing underground. He
16 then performed such a test to prove the feasibility. The
17 Atomic Energy Commission announced that the shock waves were
18 felt no further than 250 miles away, when in fact a seismic
19 station in Alaska recorded a blast 2,300 miles away. The
20 Commission, when asked to explain this, said that they had
21 made an inadvertent error.

22 Dr. Teller and his colleague, Dr. Latter, next
23 proposed that the Soviets could muffle explosions underground
24 in large cavities. As testimony to the influence of such
25 arguments, Dr. George Kistiakowsky, who was the science
26 advisor to President Eisenhower, said:

27 "I am now convinced that a
28 comprehensive treaty would not be

1 ratified by the Senate since AEC,
2 DOE and Teller will all testify in
3 opposition."

4 But, in any event, modern seismic techniques using
5 high-frequency filtration and noise reduction techniques with
6 in-country monitoring stations could detect Soviet
7 explosions, even if decoupled, as small as one kiloton
8 anywhere in the Soviet Union.

9 In 1957 President Eisenhower said at a press
10 conference that Teller had promised him a clean hydrogen bomb
11 that could be made available in four to five years. "If you
12 use this on the battlefield," said the President, "there will
13 be no fallout." Needless to say, the President was mistaken.
14 It is impossible to make nuclear bombs without nuclear
15 fallout.

16 As has been much discussed, in May of 1978 President
17 Carter was advised by the directors of the weapons
18 laboratories against a CTB. There was testimony before the
19 House Armed Services Committee, there were letters sent to
20 members of Congress and there was no CTB.

21 The arguments were made that a stockpile could not
22 be maintained reliably. I'd like to borrow from an argument
23 by Dr. Garwin, who was here this morning. He said you need
24 to look at the reliability argument in context.

25 I would like to see the weapons labs prepare some
26 facts for us comparing the reliability of the warheads to the
27 reliability of the delivery vehicles in which they are
28 mounted. I think that when you make that comparison, you

1 will see that reliability is really dominated by the delivery
2 vehicles rather than the warheads themselves.

3 The arguments against CTB get progressively more
4 outlandish. CTB opponents claim that the Soviets could
5 disguise the seismic signals from an underground nuclear
6 explosion in the coda of a large earthquake.

7 The logistical problems with such an evasion scheme
8 are formidable, requiring in essence that the bomb be placed
9 ahead of time very near the earthquake epicenter ready to go
10 off at a moment's notice. Even so, the seismic signatures of
11 an earthquake and an underground explosion are distinctive.
12 So that there would still be some risk of detection.

13 CTB opponents have suggested that the Soviets can
14 cheat by hiding nuclear explosions behind the sun. What will
15 they think of next? Testing behind Uranus? Testing inside
16 erupting volcanoes? The truth is there is no place where one
17 can confidently hide a nuclear explosion.

18 There is no reasonable argument against a CTB in my
19 opinion, scientific or otherwise. Examination of the record
20 of opposition to the CTB from scientists leads to two
21 inescapable conclusions: That the weapons laboratories
22 scientists have been the primary source of technical
23 information, the primary obstacle to a CTB; and two, that the
24 weapons labs appear to be putting their own self-interest
25 ahead of the national security considerations that underlie
26 the U.S. policy to achieve a CTB.

27 The Strategic Defense Initiative has breathed new
28 life into the weapons laboratories and scientists are hard at

1 work on a new third generation of nuclear weapons. But
2 they're not just working on defensive nuclear weapons.
3 They're also working on defense suppression for techniques
4 which would penetrate a nuclear defense that would be put up
5 by the Soviet Union. They're working on a cycle of
6 offensive/defensive measures and countermeasures that
7 guarantee an endless arms race with or without the
8 participation of the Soviets.

9 The situation we are faced with arises from the
10 contradictory assignments of the weapons laboratories. On
11 the one hand, as national laboratories, Livermore and Los
12 Alamos are to be responsive to national security needs and
13 the national interest. On the other hand, the laboratories
14 were chartered and continue to be charged with the
15 responsibility of nuclear weapons research and development,
16 which necessarily includes nuclear testing. These two
17 missions are in fundamental conflict.

18 Out of long-time habit and lack of imagination, the
19 weapons laboratories rationalize their continued involvement
20 in nuclear weapons R&D and use their considerable influence
21 to lobby against the CTB. The situation is analogous to
22 having parents give children an allowance to teach them how
23 to handle money once they are financially independent and
24 then permitting the children to decide when they are ready to
25 have their allowance cut off.

26 The State of California and the Regents of the
27 University of California should, as a matter of policy,
28 terminate the nuclear weapons R&D progress at Lawrence

1 Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories. At the same
2 time the State of California should assist the laboratories
3 in a transition to other scientific work -- advanced research
4 in astrophysics, meteorology, space exploration, material
5 research, energy research, biomedical engineering. The list
6 goes on.

7 Once the mission of the laboratories is redefined,
8 then the primary source of opposition to a Comprehensive Test
9 Ban goes away, national policy to have such a Comprehensive
10 Test Ban can be implemented, between one and two billion
11 dollars that is spent annually on nuclear R&D can be
12 reallocated by the federal government to other programs that
13 the laboratories would be eligible to compete for. The
14 laboratories would then be brought into conformance with
15 what's appropriate for a great university -- open inquiry and
16 dissemination of knowledge. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you very much, Dr. Stein.

18 Dr. Schwartz, Charles Schwartz, University of
19 California, Berkeley.

20 DR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you very much. My name is
21 Charles Schwartz and I'm a Professor of Physics at the
22 University of California, Berkeley.

23 I have been for quite a number of years an active
24 and persistent critic of the Livermore and Los Alamos
25 Laboratories and particularly of the University's role in the
26 relations of those labs. In a word and a half I can
27 summarize my objection by saying that the University performs
28 a disservice to the nation by its engagement with those

1 laboratories. Not a service, a disservice, a deception, a
2 confusion.

3 It gives to the laboratory managers and their close
4 associates in Washington, whose mission is the continuation
5 of the arms race, the appearance of broad-minded, diverse
6 balance and objective and valid technical opinions on these
7 questions to help guide the nations.

8 This is a deception that is granted simply by the
9 existence of the name University of California and by the
10 absence of any real balanced oversight, diversity, input into
11 the labs' work and their communications, which are frequent
12 and intense, with the decisionmakers in Washington.

13 This morning Dr. Jack Evernden said that UC has
14 failed in its oversight responsibilities with the laboratory.
15 I'd like to say he's wrong. The question is what are the
16 oversight responsibilities of the laboratory. I'd like to
17 show you a bit of documentation on this which I think will be
18 very revealing.

19 In 1979 there was intense debate on these subjects
20 around the Board of Regents, both on the Board and from
21 protest activities outside. I was engaged in all of those
22 things. There were proposals before the Board of Regents for
23 the establishment of a new, independent and diverse oversight
24 body that could help achieve the kinds of balanced approach
25 and assessment of weapons problems that we have heard talked
26 about today.

27 But there was also a countermove from Washington.
28 The Secretary of Energy appointed a special commission to

1 study this problem. The commission was made up of old
2 weapons labs directors, from defense and university
3 officials, people who were quite familiar members of the
4 status quo who were not really interested in any change.

5 Their major recommendation was that the University's
6 involvement with the lab should continue and that, quote,
7 "The major need of the laboratories is an effective group to
8 discharge the trusteeship functions." What was meant by this
9 was spelled out in a statement to the Board of Regents in May
10 1974; statment made by Duane Sewell, Assistant Secretary for
11 Defense Programs for the Department of Energy. Let me read
12 his quote carefully for you:

13 "As I see it, this means that the
14 trusteeship group .." that means
15 the Regents and that committee and
16 the oversight. "... the
17 trusteeship group will have to hold
18 more meetings at the laboratories
19 and elsewhere than has been the
20 case in the immediate past, and
21 certainly more homework will have
22 to be done by the members of this
23 group to become familiar with the
24 laboratories' programs and
25 administrative problems. I am sure
26 that this group will also be called
27 upon to make more public statements
28 supporting the laboratories and

1 their programs."

2 I think that spells out very clearly the mission of
3 oversight offered to the Regents by the Department of Energy.
4 By the way, Duane Sewell, who delivered this advice on behalf
5 of the Department of Energy, was only a few months earlier
6 the second-in-command official at the Livermore Lab, where
7 his whole history career had been.

8 There are many examples, as Dewitt stated earlier,
9 of people from the lab working up. By the way, the labs are
10 a completely ingrown organization. People come there for
11 technical reasons. If they perform well, they may be
12 promoted. All the top management of the laboratories are
13 people who have had their whole careers there. Many of them
14 go to important offices in Washington where policy decisions
15 are made to direct the labs' programs and to give
16 recommendations and advice to the level of Secretary of
17 Defense, National Security Council and so on.

18 So, the labs are indeed intimately integrated with
19 much more than technical work, but the whole framework of
20 national policy with regard to nuclear weapons in view of
21 that mission given to the University of California to do
22 their homework and to be called upon to make more statements
23 supporting the laboratories and their programs. No critique,
24 no balanced assessment, no objectivity, no diversity, just
25 support.

26 Well, the Regents had a choice whether to go with
27 the proposals for a reformed and broadened version or this
28 one. The Regents chose this one.

1 Then the committee, this SAAC, that they set up was
2 just a revamping of a previous committee and its mission has
3 been clear to maintain status quo. The people on that
4 committee are overwhelmingly members of the old club who know
5 how the labs work, are sympathetic to that and want to
6 maintain it.

7 I should point out that while the discussions here
8 have been almost exclusively around the politics by the labs
9 around the CTB issues, there are a number of other examples.
10 In repeated presentations before the Board of Regents I and
11 others have brought these up in documents and testimony to
12 the Board just a year ago September. I listed some of these
13 in detail. The first significant one that I had
14 discovered -- and by the way, all of my information comes
15 from public sources. I am not an insider with access to the
16 secret works of the labs. So, I know what happens to leak
17 out in public -- was admissions by Los Alamos Director Agnew
18 concerning the history of the neutron bomb in which he said
19 that there was some difficulty in the early 70's there
20 getting this new idea for a new kind of weapon accepted in
21 the Pentagon. But Agnew told in certain congressional
22 hearings, he said:

23 "We at Los Alamos have a small, but
24 very elite group that meets with
25 outside people in the defense
26 community and in the various think
27 tanks. They are working very
28 aggressively, trying to influence

1 the Department of Defense to
2 consider using these weapons ..."
3 and so forth.

4 Other examples -- and these are more recent. And I
5 think there has been an increase in both the overt -- well,
6 overt is all I can see. I can't tell you about the covert
7 political actions of the lab. I think the position taken by
8 the Regents has endorsed and encouraged more such. During
9 the nuclear freeze campaign the laboratory was very active in
10 training and encouraging its employees to get out there and
11 engage in public debate. Of course, we have also, I think,
12 very clearly heard about the role of the laboratory officials
13 in pushing the SDI program.

14 So, this is a structural situation which should not
15 surprise anyone, as earlier people said. The labs have a
16 mission. The people who go there take on the career, a
17 profession, a pursuit of weapons development and it's just
18 inconceivable that that is something that they will be party
19 to ending or decreasing.

20 So, consistently arguing against arms control
21 limitations, consistently advocating in favor of new weapons
22 is the natural and to be expected role.

23 The question of diversity has been brought up
24 explaining that University management provides greater
25 diversity at the labs than could exist under other
26 management. I think there probably is an effect there, but
27 the effect is tiny to the vanishing point. There is very
28 little diversity at the labs.

1 If you were to take a sample -- and there's one that
2 can document this by some data that's available -- about the
3 spectrum of opinion among informed people at the labs about
4 nuclear weapons policies, you would get a certain diversity,
5 a certain spread. If you were to do a similiar measurement,
6 say, among the faculty members at the University of
7 California who are knowledgeable about this, you would get
8 another spread. But the University spread would be out here
9 (indicating) and the lab spread would be about here
10 (indicating). Nothing at all congruent between these two
11 distributions.

12 Dr. DeWitt over here is an absolutely unique
13 phenomenon at the laboratory by being a active dissident. He
14 is one. Dr. Kidder, I would say, is half a dissident. One
15 and a half dissidents out of a staff of several thousand is
16 not a very good track record for the University of California
17 to proclaim as its success rate in promoting diversity,
18 freedom of expression. I think it is a measure of incredible
19 failure. It is a failure consciously achieved through
20 decisions by the Board of Regents in the presence of the
21 arguments that have been presented here and have been
22 presented to them in the past.

23 I, therefore, think it is false to imagine that
24 improvements are likely to be made from within by the Regents
25 or by slightly improved performance by the Scientific
26 Advisory Committee that was mentioned by a previous speaker.

27 I think there is a fundamental and essential
28 opportunity and need for the members of the Legislature to

1 find steps that they can take. A concept has been talked
2 about of a truly independent review body that might be
3 established in some way by this Legislature; a body that
4 would be composed of well-established, knowledgeable people
5 truly representing diverse points of view and background and
6 levels of assessment on these questions which are of
7 incredible importance.

8 I think it is a responsibility of the Legislature to
9 do this, because the University of California belongs to the
10 people of this state. I think the Regents have failed -- one
11 might even say betrayed -- their public trust in having sold
12 out to the weapons fleet. The Legislature is called upon --
13 I call upon the Legislature to do what they can to achieve
14 some balance, rectify it, take some initiative on their own,
15 step into the fray. I think there's every bit of reason and
16 I think you have the ability to do that. I ask you to take
17 that step.

18 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you for the invitation.

19 I'd like to call on now Christopher Paine, the
20 Center for International Studies at MIT.

21 MR. PAINE: Thank you, Senator Watson and members of
22 the Committee. I'm a visiting fellow at the Center of
23 International Studies, working on nuclear testing issues.
24 That's at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I've also
25 worked on Capitol Hill for the past seven years as a lobbyist
26 for scientific organizations interested in the arms race and
27 as a congressional staff member, first in the House of
28 Representatives and then in the Senate, concerned with atomic

1 energy defense activities.

2 I welcome this opportunity to present my views on
3 the role of nuclear weapons laboratories in the policy debate
4 over the nuclear test ban and to review the question whether
5 the University of California has wisely exercised its
6 management responsibilities in this sensitive area.

7 Scientists who venture into the public policy arena
8 have a special responsibility. They must assure that the
9 instinctive deference that is accorded their unique base of
10 nuclear knowledge does not become a license to undercut or
11 manipulate the normal decisionmaking processes of our
12 democratic institutions. This caution especially applies to
13 the officials of UC's nuclear weapons laboratories, whose
14 purported base of expertise is not only highly specialized,
15 but largely secret.

16 How well has UC management done in assuring that its
17 laboratory employees adhere to this essential criterion for
18 scientists in the public arena? On the basis of a thorough
19 acquaintance with the record of the test ban debate since
20 1957 and with firsthand experience of these matters on
21 Capitol Hill since 1979, I must tell you that, with certain
22 notable exceptions, the record of laboratory officials in
23 this respect has been deplorable; especially in recent years.

24 In general, laboratory officials have not confined
25 themselves to their statutory role as custodians of the
26 classified knowledge and expertise which supports deployment
27 of a nuclear deterrent by the United States. Instead they
28 have arrogated to themselves the task of defining which

1 nuclear forces and arms control approaches are appropriate
2 goals for U.S. policy. In my view they have then abused
3 their secret base of knowledge by constructing a kind of
4 technical fait d'accompli to steer public policy toward their
5 preferred objective of an endless technical competition in
6 nuclear arms.

7 The unwary politician or policymaker -- and I've
8 known a lot of them -- faced with the spectre of decaying
9 warheads and a threatened mass exodus from the laboratories
10 may understandably fail to recognize that the entire
11 structure of the lab argument against a test ban is based on
12 prior and current design and maintenance practices for the
13 nuclear stockpile. These practices can and would be changed
14 under a test ban regime.

15 Moreover, most of these practices were developed to
16 provide the very military characteristics of a nuclear war
17 fighting capability that are at the center of the policy
18 debate over the test ban. Thus the labs' apparently
19 well-reasoned technical argument against the test ban is
20 embarrassingly circular. It's somewhat akin to arguing that a
21 ban on the heroin trade should be done on the grounds that
22 the poppy farmers will go bankrupt. It doesn't make sense.

23 It should be readily apparent from the preceding
24 testimony heard today that the real public policy choice is
25 not between a reliable deterrent and an unreliable one or
26 between unrestrained future testing and inevitable nuclear
27 amnesia or between a robust nuclear force or none at all.
28 The actual range of policy options is much broader than this

1 and I believe the proper role of the nuclear weapons
2 laboratories is to elucidate, to clarify the technical
3 requirements posed by each of these policy options. It is
4 not their role to chose pre-emptively between them and then
5 to defend their choice based on their interpretation of a
6 largely classified data base which they control.

7 If the system were working properly, the lab
8 directors would not take it upon themselves to declare U.S.
9 treaty commitments obsolete. And I am submitting for the
10 record a rather extensive compilation of what the laboratory
11 directors have said in Washington over the last five years
12 concerning nuclear testing issues. They have unilaterally
13 taken it upon themselves to declare before congressional
14 committees that U.S. treaty commitments regarding nuclear
15 testing should be made obsolete, should be forgotten and
16 dispensed with. They did this even as the President of the
17 United States was attempting to negotiate a Comprehensive
18 Test Ban. I consider that conduct reprehensible.

19 Instead the laboratory directors would present
20 disinterested, careful analyses for legislators and
21 policymakers of what information will be generated; as well
22 as what information would be denied by test practices geared
23 to the full range of policy options, ranging from zero yield
24 and zero tests to the status quo at 150 kilotons.

25 If laboratory officials are as deeply concerned as
26 they claim to be about the alleged inconsistency of U.S.
27 diplomatic goals with the military requirements of deterrence
28 as they perceive them, then in the course of these analyses

1 they should point out these inconsistencies and suggest
2 modifications either to the military requirements or to the
3 proposed test restrictions to accommodate these
4 inconsistencies.

5 As matters now stand, the chief contribution of the
6 present laboratory leadership to the public policy debate
7 over nuclear testing has been to obscure the real nature of
8 the choices available and to obstruct the formation of a
9 political consensus supporting a very low-yield threshold
10 ban.

11 This role, of course, is just the opposite of what
12 the American people are entitled to expect from the leaders
13 of the national laboratories. Their technical expertise
14 should be used to clarify public policy choices regarding
15 science, energy and national security and used to facilitate
16 the process of decisionmaking by those legally entrusted with
17 the responsibility for national security policy.

18 National laboratory representatives should not make
19 pronouncements in their official capacity on matters which
20 are clearly beyond their sphere of competence and
21 responsibility such as the, quote, "requirements of
22 deterrence"; the psychology and motivation of Soviet leaders;
23 the alleged obsolescence of U.S. treaty commitments; the
24 proclivity of Soviet scientists to cheat; the political will
25 of future Congresses to provide adequate funds in a test ban
26 environment; the overall goals of U.S. national security
27 strategy; and the, quote, "verifiability of a comprehensive
28 ban". In my view these are all subjects which are beyond the

1 competence and responsibility of the directors of the nuclear
2 weapons laboratories.

3 A moratorium on pronouncements regarding CTB
4 verification would be especially welcomed. Neither the
5 laboratories nor anyone else has advanced an agreed
6 definition of what a comprehensive ban would be in practice
7 and to my knowledge a comprehensive verification analysis
8 incorporating all intelligence assets of the United States
9 government and its allies has never been conducted. We
10 simply do not know what the relevant overall probabilities of
11 detection are for such a, quote, "comprehensive agreement".

12 Unfortunately, this ignorance has never deterred
13 laboratory spokesmen from advertising the infeasibility of a
14 comprehensive agreement. The word "comprehensive", by the
15 way, means in all environments. It is not foreordained that
16 a CTB must cover all explosive releases of nuclear energy,
17 which can be quite small.

18 A test ban which reduced the yield of allowable
19 nuclear explosions to some modest multiple of the largest
20 military chemical explosives would, in my view, fulfill the
21 intent of the CTB as a prohibition on the further development
22 of weapons of mass destruction.

23 Proper management would also assure that laboratory
24 personnel do not selectively invoke the classified record of
25 past nuclear design and test practices as prima facie
26 evidence that such practices are necessarily required in the
27 future to correct deficiencies in the nuclear stockpile.

28 On the other hand, the national laboratory

1 representatives should analyze the full range of proposed
2 test restrictions for their impact on present and planned
3 military requirements for the nuclear stockpile. They should
4 analyze for each proposed testing regime which military
5 requirements could and could not be met within the
6 constraints of that regime. They should explore and document
7 optimum alternative test, design and maintenance practices
8 for each proposed test ban regime that would maximize
9 stockpile confidence and shelf life within the limits imposed
10 by that regime. They should analyze the results of their
11 prior analyses for their sensitivity to various effective
12 dates for a test ban.

13 Unfortunately, U.C.'s management of the nuclear
14 weapons laboratories has led to a rather uncomfortable
15 situation. Either the lab directors are distorting the facts
16 about the alleged inability of the present stockpile to be
17 maintained under a CTB or they and their predecessors have
18 consciously pursued nuclear design practices which directly
19 undercut longstanding U.S. diplomatic commitments.

20 In either case, as President Carter discovered when
21 he tried to negotiate a test ban, the result is intolerable
22 from the perspective of formulating public policy.

23 A top-to-bottom, completely independent outside
24 review of the laboratories' nuclear design, test and
25 stockpile surveillance programs should be instituted
26 immediately with the aim of restoring the competence and
27 willingness of laboratory leadership to provide objective,
28 accurate analyses of stockpile evaluation and maintenance

1 techniques under the full range of policy alternatives. Not
2 just their preferred alternatives, the full range of
3 alternatives; including a test ban which precluded all
4 explosions that could not be contained in a reusable
5 above-ground facility and observed by personnel within 30
6 meters and including test bans with thresholds of, say, 300
7 tons, 1 kiloton, 3 to 5 kilotons and 10 to 15 kilotons.

8 If we had such analyses, it would be much easier for
9 politicians and the Executive Branch to formulate and agree
10 to a consensus on nuclear test ban policies.

11 Second, guidelines should be developed similar to
12 those governing the interaction of the intelligence community
13 with the policymaking branches of government. These would
14 necessarily be informal guidelines as long as the
15 laboratories stay under the aegis of the University of
16 California. No one has any desire to restrict individual's
17 freedom of speech. However, these guidelines should
18 emphasize the difference between analysis that is within the
19 laboratories' sphere of competence and questions of overall
20 national policy determination that are properly within the
21 sphere of the Executive Branch and the Congress. The
22 legitimate purpose of the national laboratories is to serve
23 these democratic institutions; not to sidestep, circumvent or
24 outwit them.

25 A system of management incentives should be
26 instituted whereby laboratory employees are no longer
27 rewarded for their talents at misleading the Congress,
28 undercutting the President and protecting those elements of

1 our society with ideological and career investments in the
2 nuclear arms race.

3 The national laboratories are in theory national
4 assets. The taxes of all Americans go to support them. The
5 work they do should serve to illuminate the full range of
6 nuclear weapons policy options facing the American people;
7 not just the options favored by those with vested interests
8 in the design, development and production of improved nuclear
9 weaponry.

10 I believe that an unimpeded channel, independent of
11 the Division of Military Application and its associated units
12 within the laboratories, must be created for the analysis and
13 transmission of objective nuclear stockpile information to
14 decisionmakers within the Executive Branch and to the
15 legislative branches of government.

16 If UC management proves incapable or unwilling to
17 bring about these minimal reforms, restoring some measure of
18 scientific credibility to the laboratories' presentation of
19 test ban issues, then it should divest itself of the
20 management contract and remove the figleaf of intellectual
21 respectability which it currently extends over the
22 laboratories' activities. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Paine.
24 Dr. William R. Frazer.

25 DR. FRAZER: Let me very briefly describe to you the
26 means by which the University of California carries out its
27 contractual responsibilities. I'll describe not only the
28 management structure, but also the means we have of carrying

1 out the oversight function.

2 The Regents are directly involved in such matters as
3 the appointment of high-level personnel, selection of
4 directors, top-level salary administration, et cetera.

5 There is a Regental Committee on Oversight of the
6 Department of Energy laboratories that currently consists of
7 12 Regents. The Committee visits each laboratory once a
8 year. The President and I participate in these visits. The
9 Committee's function is to become highly informed on major
10 issues affecting the laboratories and to lend its
11 considerable expertise when appropriate and to act as a
12 source of information to the full board.

13 The University is assisted in discharging its
14 oversight responsibility by the use of expert, independent
15 and broadly constituted advisory committees appointed by and
16 reporting to the President. Two standing committees are
17 currently in operation. Let me describe them to you briefly.
18 You've heard about one of them already, the Scientific and
19 Academic Advisory Committee.

20 This committee, established in 1971, has oversight
21 responsibility to the Los Alamos Laboratory and the Livermore
22 Laboratory. Its role is to provide expert evaluation and
23 render advice on any and all topics that affect the quality
24 of the laboratories' performance. I've attached the charge
25 of the committee and a list of its members in my formal
26 testimony. I think you'll see it's a very distinguished
27 group of Committee members.

28 The committee meets four times a year, twice at each

1 laboratory. Typically, the meetings focus on a specific
2 component of the laboratories' program and examine it
3 in-depth. Again, moving a little rapidly here. The agenda
4 for this committee is prepared by myself in consultation --
5 by the committee chairman in consultation with me and with
6 the advice of the laboratory directors.

7 That committee, as you've just heard earlier today
8 from Dr. Kidder, is now in the process of responding to my
9 request made several months ago that they examine the issue
10 that is of such interest to this Committee, the use of
11 nuclear tests by the laboratories in their nuclear weapons
12 program and the relationship of these tests to a
13 Comprehensive Test Ban. That committee's independence, broad
14 expertise and access to classified information are essential
15 qualities for this important task.

16 There's a second committee that I'll just refer to
17 briefly, the Health, Safety and Environment Advisory
18 Committee. I think the name of that is probably
19 self-explanatory. I won't say any more about it.

20 Let me just make then a concluding remark or two
21 based on listening to all the testimony you've heard today.

22 I think you're well aware, having heard the
23 testimony now, of the complexity of the issues you're dealing
24 with here. I think you're well aware of the spectrum of
25 opinion and not just between the University representatives
26 and the others, but the very wide spectrum of opinions and
27 blendings and subtleties from one to another of the witnesses
28 you've heard; a very distinguished group of witnesses,

1 indeed.

2 I would like to just comment on two issues that have
3 been raised: Is the University's management of the
4 laboratories serving the public interest? There's
5 disagreement on that. I would like to just point out two
6 things you've heard in the hearing today that are relevant to
7 that, two instances in which I think you heard about ways in
8 which the University's management is performing a useful
9 service.

10 Dr. Evernden's testimony this morning pointed out
11 the recent testimony of Directors Batzel and Hecker before a
12 Senate committee dealing with the question of ratification of
13 a Limited Threshold Test Ban Treaty. They testified that
14 there is no evidence that the Soviet Union has been cheating
15 on that treaty. This is in contradiction to the stated view
16 of the administration in Washington, particularly the Defense
17 Department.

18 Obviously, I think it's quite obvious that the
19 degree of insulation which the University of California's
20 management of the laboratories provides has been helpful in
21 that instance. And I would remind you of Dr. Kidder's
22 remark, which I might interpret -- broaden it a little bit.
23 If the University of California were not managing the
24 laboratories, you would not be holding this hearing.

25 Could our oversight function be improved? It has
26 evolved a great deal since the early days of Los Alamos when
27 the University's contract was really an umbrella to provide a
28 buffer, you might say, between Washington and the

1 laboratories. Over the years the University's oversight role
2 has become more and more active, more and more thorough. It
3 has evolved considerably in the past few years. As I said,
4 just this year, just a few months ago, I've commissioned the
5 SAAC Committee to examine many of the questions you're
6 looking at today.

7 Could that oversight role be improved? Could we do
8 better? Of course we could. It's like asking could our
9 oversight role of the campuses be improved. Of course we
10 could improve. We're not perfect and I have every intention
11 of assuring you that we take this oversight role very
12 seriously and will attempt to exercise it and do attempt to
13 exercise it to the best of our ability. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. Frazer.

15 Dr. Holdren.

16 DR. HOLDREN: Yes, I'm still John Holdren. I will
17 now tackle the second issue on the agenda, which is the
18 University's role in the management of the laboratories.

19 It seems to me that one needs to ask two questions.
20 One is whether that management relationship has been in the
21 University's interest; and the second question is whether it
22 has been in the public's interest.

23 As far as the University's interests are concerned,
24 of course one addresses the University's main missions; which
25 are teaching, research and service. One thinks first of the
26 two missions, teaching and research, which are in some sense
27 unique in their combination to the University itself, the
28 question of the University's role in the creation and

1 dissemination of knowledge.

2 There, although I myself as a University professor
3 and former lab staff member have benefited from some of the
4 kinds of interactions that occur, I have to say that the
5 benefits in this connection are modest. They are not
6 insignificant, but they are also not enormous and most of
7 them could be maintained no matter who is managing the lab.
8 That is, the constructive relationships between the
9 University of California campuses and the laboratories are
10 mainly based on some areas of mutual interest, access to
11 resources of mutual benefit and proximity. Those kinds of
12 relationships exist in many other instances where the
13 University itself does not manage the organization in
14 question.

15 As far as service is concerned, this really comes
16 down to the key and larger issue of the public interest.
17 That is, as has already been suggested here, we can only
18 conclude that the University is performing a public service
19 by its management role in the laboratories if we find that
20 the operation of those laboratories under University
21 management has itself been in the public interest.

22 Now, again, as somebody with experience both from
23 the University side and the lab side, I do see some aspects
24 of the University's management role which I believe have been
25 in the public interest. I don't think the issue is all black
26 and white one way or the other. I think it is true that
27 University management in name at least has helped to maintain
28 a high professional caliber in the laboratory staffs,

1 although I have to say I do not think that the University is
2 the only organization in our society capable of helping the
3 labs maintain the needed level of technical competence.

4 I think it is true that the University's management
5 has helped insulate the laboratories from micromanagement by
6 the Department of Energy; although, again, I would not
7 concede that the University is the only manager capable of
8 accomplishing that goal.

9 I think it is true that the University's management
10 has helped create at least a degree of toleration of dissent
11 in the laboratories, which has been a desirable thing;
12 although there aren't enough Hugh DeWitts, there aren't
13 enough Ray Kidders. Nevertheless, it is important that the
14 degree of tolerance which has permitted them to exist there
15 and to object to official positions has been a desirable
16 thing.

17 But I do not think these advantages, although they
18 are significant, are sufficiently weighty to overwhelm the
19 very strong argument against the effectiveness of the
20 University's role. That argument, as has already been
21 mentioned here, is that the University in its role as a more
22 or less absentee manager of the laboratory creates an
23 impression of a degree of critical scrutiny, a degree of
24 oversight, a degree of guidance, a degree of academic
25 respectability in some sense; an impression which is really
26 not justified by the nature of the relationship.

27 It is true there is and has been an oversight
28 committee. It is true there are visits. But I think if one

1 looks carefully at the nature of the laboratories and the
2 nature of the Department of Energy, whose interest the
3 laboratories by their nature must serve, and the nature of
4 the University, it simply is unreasonable in principle to
5 suppose that the University is going to be able to exercise
6 ever the kind of real management, the kind of steering, the
7 kind of oversight, the kind of critical scrutiny that I think
8 the University and the public conscious would require if we
9 were to be happy with this arrangement in which the
10 University serves as the custodian of this contract.

11 Again, I come back to the point that I made in my
12 earlier remarks. We have to face up to the possibility that
13 the laboratories have been engaged for a long time in what
14 has been called suboptimization by the economist Kenneth
15 Boulding, meaning they have been finding the best ways to do
16 what ought not to be done at all. That is, to devise new
17 forms of nuclear weapons that would somehow appear to be more
18 militarily usable and in fact thereby have contributed to
19 driving a nuclear arms race which has been making us less
20 safe.

21 The University, by its custodial and pro forma
22 management relationship with the laboratories, is helping to
23 sustain the respectability of the proposition that our
24 national security requires the application of the best
25 technical talent to continuing innovation in nuclear
26 weaponry. I think that proposition is wrong, that that
27 proposition has been driving the nuclear arms race in
28 pernicious directions and that the University cannot be proud

1 of its role in sustaining this illusion that this is what our
2 national security requires by its custodial relationship.

3 I do think that we need in this country a nuclear
4 weapons establishment. I think we need it for unfortunate
5 reasons. We would need it even if we achieved a
6 Comprehensive Test Ban as an insurance policy.

7 So, I am not arguing that the United States can at
8 the present state of the world do completely without a
9 nuclear weapons design establishment; but I do not believe
10 that we need two nuclear weapons laboratories competing with
11 each other. I think one would suffice. I don't think we
12 need the prestige of the University of California put at the
13 surface of the nuclear weapons establishment and put at its
14 surface in particular in arguing politically that the
15 continuation of the nuclear arms race is what is necessary to
16 maintain the national security of the United States.

17 I think that is where we go wrong. That is where
18 the State of California has a real interest in this matter.
19 That is, whether the prestige and the expertise of the
20 University of California in this instance is being put to
21 good use. My conclusion on balance is that it has not been.

22 Again, I emphasize from the standpoint of someone
23 who's worked at the lab, I see very attractive aspects of the
24 University management. It makes the lab a better, more
25 attractive place to work. From the standpoint of permitting
26 some tolerance of dissent, the management has been a good
27 thing. But those advantages, in my view, cannot compensate
28 for the fundamental problem that the University is lending

1 its respectability, its prestige and an impression of
2 oversight to an operation where none of those things are in
3 fact justified. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. Holdren.

5 Dr. Carson Mark.

6 DR. MARK: Madam Chairwoman, I don't think I will
7 take very long nor introduce anything particularly new.

8 I said before and other people have said that the
9 labs are in their operation observing what they are told to
10 be national policy priorities. They have in that connection
11 made statements about the negative effects of a Comprehensive
12 Test Ban which have either been on false bases or poorly
13 explained bases and for that I think criticism is most
14 certainly due.

15 The other thing which applies here and which I am
16 sure you realize, although I haven't had it in my own sight
17 for very long, is the inclination they have to proceed as
18 they do is the assumption -- the absolutely basic ingrained
19 assumption -- that the United States and the USSR are
20 necessarily engaged indefinitely in a competitive all-out
21 arms race. If you make that assumption, then the things
22 which they have been doing can more easily be understood.

23 There is no allowance when they talk about the
24 terrible effects on their laboratory of a test ban; no
25 allowance for the fact that if you had a test ban, some of
26 these political climate features and some of that assumption
27 would radically change and what the labs might be doing in
28 the country's interest would become a different set of

1 activities.

2 They say we can't make new weapons if we have a test
3 ban. Quite correct. If you have a test ban, you don't need
4 to make new weapons. So, things will be very different.

5 The other last thing I would leave with some of your
6 colleagues is one gets the feeling that this is a matter of
7 desperate importance and has to be settled during this
8 Congress, if not before, and things of that kind. I would
9 just like to mention that of the 25 or 30,000 weapons in the
10 U.S., more than 50 percent are more than 20 years old. So,
11 the deterioration which we hear so much about and the sudden
12 collapse of all our security isn't really so strongly
13 underlined by that fact. I will leave it there.

14 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you, Dr. Mark.

15 Finally, Dr. DeWitt.

16 DR. DeWITT: Again, I am Hugh DeWitt, 30-year staff
17 member of the Livermore Laboratory. Other people here have
18 identified me as a full dissident, which I rather enjoy. So,
19 I will continue that role and make a, hopefully, very short
20 discussion of the oversight role of the University of
21 California of the weapons laboratories and, specifically, the
22 oversight bodies that have been set up, institutional
23 arrangements, from earlier committees.

24 I first want to mention that in 1978, after nearly a
25 year of very stormy hearings before a high-level committee
26 chaired by Vice Chancellor William Gerberding -- a committee
27 appointed by, I believe, the UC president at that time -- to
28 examine the relations between the weapons laboratories and

1 the University of California.

2 This committee issued a report, the Gerberding
3 Report, which concluded that it was still all right for the
4 University to run the two weapons laboratories so long as
5 that management was morally and intellectually responsible.
6 Then it went on to discuss various kinds of new oversight
7 arrangements.

8 I have to agree with Professor Schwartz that the
9 main kind of oversight arrangement was simply more frequent
10 visits to the laboratories to see what was going on and not
11 much else. In fact, in my opinion, as an insider and
12 watching all this and having testified before that group,
13 really nothing has changed since 1978; that the management of
14 UC remains as sensitive, weak and as tenuous as it always has
15 been.

16 Now, the weapons labs are managed by the UC Regents
17 under five-year renewable contracts with the Department of
18 Energy. Currently, the UC Regents have approved the renewal
19 last September and we're waiting on the Department of Energy
20 to see if they will renew the contract when it runs out this
21 coming September.

22 The labs are owned by the federal government, all
23 money comes from congressional appropriation. So, the
24 University role is really quite limited. The Regents make
25 some attempt. They have a special oversight committee for
26 the DOE laboratories and the Regents do indeed come to the
27 laboratories, both of them, once in awhile every year or so
28 and they hear nice prepared presentations in the director's

1 office.

2 But since the Regents are generally not technical
3 people, they can't judge the technical and scientific
4 arguments used by the lab managers to justify important
5 matters like the current nuclear weapons testing and design
6 policies.

7 Now, the Regents know very well this requires some
8 scientists and requires close attention by a group of
9 qualified scientists. In principle, this kind of effort
10 could be done by another group that's been discussed by many
11 of the earlier speakers, the UC Scientific and Academic
12 Advisory Committee for Livermore and Los Alamos. This group
13 was created by the Zinner Report of 1971, another one of
14 these big review committees way, way back.

15 The Scientific Advisory Committee is the only entity
16 in the UC system that has any possibility of exercising an
17 independent assessment of the technical aspects of nuclear
18 design work -- particularly policy -- of the two
19 laboratories.

20 Now, over the years this advisory committee has
21 included some very competent people; but it really has not
22 exercised any kind of a really independent critique of the
23 programs of the laboratories. At least not over nuclear
24 weapons.

25 I worked with the Statements Committee from the
26 years 1976 to 1982 and read all the reports and I had general
27 hope that they would do something. In fact, they've done
28 very little. Ray Kidder mentioned that in 1977 he presented

1 a very important statement asking the Committee to look into
2 the technical questions about nuclear weapons reliability,
3 which was ignored. I was there and can testify he was
4 ignored.

5 In 1982 the whole thing was brought up again rather
6 carefully and with a lot of correspondence to the UC
7 President, David Saxon, and we were told that this kind of
8 question, nuclear weapons design policy, was simply too hot
9 to handle. It was a technical question, yes; but the UC
10 Advisory Committee simply was not going to deal with it and
11 the matter was dropped that year.

12 Now, I'm very encouraged that apparently it's being
13 brought up again this year rather seriously and I think
14 something will happen. So, I mute my criticism; because I
15 expect that there will be an honest critique coming out of
16 the Advisory Committee later this year.

17 But the point is that up until now the function of
18 the Advisory Committee has been to look at the peripheral
19 issues, primarily scientific research at the laboratories.
20 Some of this research, by the way, is very good and very
21 appropriate and I approve of it and I support it. I even try
22 to do it, some of it.

23 But by and large the record of the Scientific
24 Advisory Committee has been basically to put a stamp of
25 status quo onto the laboratories and not exercise any kind of
26 real oversight management function.

27 So, I have to conclude that the UC management of the
28 weapons laboratory in the sense of the Gerberding Report has

1 failed to be morally and intellectually responsible in the
2 sense asked for. It's possible the task is really not
3 possible. But I think the University could do a lot better.

4 As I've said before, I believe it's imperative that
5 there be some body, some group of independent scientists with
6 access to all classified information so there's no classified
7 information barriers, no secrecy barriers to look into
8 weapons design policy, examine the arguments given by lab
9 spokesmen as to why nuclear testing should continue
10 indefinitely; which is, of course, the position that the
11 laboratories maintain. These arguments should be assessed
12 and brought to the attention of the U.S. Congress.

13 If the Scientific Advisory Committee really can't do
14 it, then I hope that Congress can find some other group that
15 can. But at least at the present time the Scientific
16 Advisory Committee has a chance and I believe is trying hard
17 to do just that, make an official attempt to assess these
18 arguments that we've been discussing here all today.

19 Now, as one quick final point. As I've been claimed
20 as a fulltime dissident or one complete dissident, I want to
21 say that in recent years the Livermore Laboratory, where I'm
22 still employed, presumably in good standing, has a good
23 record in allowing internal criticism and dissent such as
24 I've been expressing. I've done a great deal of writing and
25 publishing articles in respectable magazines and major
26 newspapers, given testimony to Congress and working with the
27 press and I do my best to give my opinions also directly to
28 lab management so they know what I'm doing so there's no

1 surprises. There's been no attempt to suppress what I'm
2 doing or to in any way threaten me.

3 Obviously, my opinions are strongly different from
4 those expressed by most of the lab hierarchy and there are
5 very few of us who express these dissident opinions. But I
6 believe that it's appropriate there be some people in the
7 laboratory who do this. The freedom to express dissenting
8 opinions by lab staff members in fact is quite good. So, I
9 give the lab good marks at least in the present decade for
10 this situation. Now, this is one good consequence of the UC
11 management of the Livermore Laboratory.

12 On balance at the present time I do have to
13 publically say that I support continued UC management of the
14 laboratories and disagree with some of my colleagues here.
15 But, as I said earlier, I think that the management has been
16 very weak, very tenuous and in fact the University has really
17 failed to do much about it and I would hope to see some very
18 serious improvements.

19 I guess I'll stop there.

20 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Let my see if there are
21 comments or questions.

22 Senator Rosenthal?

23 SENATOR ROSENTHAL: No.

24 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Assemblyman Bates?

25 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Yeah, I had some. I'm sorry.

26 Vice President Frazer, I asked the question earlier
27 when you were in the audience and I'd like you to respond to
28 the question about the University giving some leadership on

1 the question of reliability.

2 DR. FRAZER: That I was attempting to answer in my
3 comment that I had asked the Scientific and Academic Advisory
4 Committee several months ago to make that their primary
5 agenda item this year. And they're doing that.

6 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Would you consider raising that
7 with Congress, saying that this is an important issue that
8 we're investigating and would suggest that the Congress might
9 even want to look at this in a broader grouping?

10 DR. FRAZER: I don't know what the outcome of that
11 committee's report will be.

12 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: This is an in-house situation
13 and the question has been raised it might be better even from
14 a broader national discussion and it would be important for
15 the University to provide some leadership in that.

16 DR. FRAZER: Well, it could be. I simply don't
17 know. It's possible that the Committee's finding will be
18 that they're not critical of the laboratories' handling of
19 that issue.

20 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: I guess I didn't make myself
21 clear. You've got one effort going here. I'm saying we want
22 to also focus at the national level, to say that we believe
23 it's an important question. We're looking at it, we've got
24 our own people, but we think it's of significant importance
25 that the entire nation should look at it and it should be
26 given even a potentially broader review than our own
27 committee.

28 DR. FRAZER: I think I just have to reserve judgment

1 until I see what our committee comes up with. It's obviously
2 very appropriate for Congress to look at it. I would feel a
3 bit presumptuous at the moment saying that I had a special
4 reason to ask them to. We might.

5 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Can I ask maybe Dr. DeWitt if he
6 would comment. Assuming the University -- and, you know, the
7 reality is that the Regents have indicated their willingness
8 to continue and it looks like something will be worked out.

9 What would you say -- and others may join in this.
10 But what would you say would be important for this
11 Legislature to do to try to get basically the kind of
12 oversight kind of questions raised, the kind of things that
13 have been discussed here today, the concerns you've brought
14 to us? How can we have this happen and what role could we
15 play to make sure that we did have a good presentation before
16 the Congress, some kind of peer review in terms of
17 information that was provided and some kind of check on the
18 labs and what they're doing?

19 DR. DeWITT: I have great difficulty giving anything
20 specific to answer your question, because I understand that
21 the Regents exercise such very great power over all matters
22 concerning the University. And the role of the state
23 Legislature is primarily power of the purse. The Legislature
24 can't exercise punitive action against the University for
25 things it disapproves of, which would be very unfortunate for
26 the student.

27 I guess my best answer to your question would be
28 that if the Legislature gets interested, that they pass a

1 very strong resolution pressing the Regents to finally at
2 last exercise some real oversight in all these matters that
3 we've been discussing here today. Whether it could go beyond
4 any kind of legislative remedies, I just don't know.

5 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Are there any suggestions -- for
6 instance, I was under the impression that various people
7 present testimony to Congress and some of that information is
8 incorrect, we are told, some of that information is
9 misleading.

10 Is there any sort of built-in peer review of that?
11 In other words, that information -- is there anything that we
12 could copy that was -- like maybe, as the intelligence
13 community does, we would require internal review before
14 people spoke on behalf of the labs before these various
15 committees. Do other people have some suggestions?

16 DR. SCHWARTZ: On your last point -- I hope people
17 in the lab will verify this -- it's my understanding that
18 when laboratory officials go to Washington to testify before
19 congressional hearings or to even high-level executive
20 people, their presentations are in fact cleared through the
21 upper management of the laboratory; exactly the opposite of
22 what I think you're trying to get at.

23 So, I think there is that kind of structure. The
24 question is: Is there a way to counterbalance that, to
25 broaden it? Could one create, insist on a kind of peer
26 review system?

27 I think that would be the most excellent thing that
28 could be done. I would love to imagine that the University

1 would see that as its thoroughly appropriate mission to do
2 that. If not and if the Legislature could find any ways to
3 help make that happen, I think that would be excellent.

4 DR. DeWITT: Just one quick comment on the question
5 of peer review or some kind of review of statements made by
6 laboratory officials to the U.S. Congress.

7 Down through the years usually these statements made
8 from the laboratory directors and by associate directors and
9 laboratory experts to members of Congress simply are made
10 going to the congressional record and are not usually seen
11 again.

12 The laboratories have a very good relationship with,
13 say, the House Armed Services Committee. There's very
14 friendly relations. Unfortunately, the statements by the
15 laboratory people are not often challenged. They should be.
16 They're part of public record.

17 In recent years that's been changing a bit, I think,
18 fortunately; because now there are at least a few members of
19 Congress who deviate from what's been the old majority view
20 of the House Armed Services Committee. So, the statements of
21 the laboratory directors are getting back to the critics of
22 the nuclear arms race around the country, including some of
23 us inside the laboratory.

24 So, now in the last two or three years it's
25 happening more and more that we see the statements by Roger
26 Batzel, the director of Los Alamos, and other people at
27 Livermore Laboratory and make our own immediate critiques to
28 the members of the Congress. That's useful, it's

1 appropriate. Then, of course, occasionally we're called in,
2 also, by Congress. I hope more of this will happen.

3 ASSEMBLYMAN BATES: Just one last thing. I was
4 wondering if it would be possible for people to supply us
5 with maybe a list of questions that we could in fact request
6 the University to examine, scientific questions that need to
7 be debated and discussed in an open forum and have that
8 returned to the Legislature with some kinds of
9 recommendations.

10 Maybe they would come back and say, this is not
11 possible, there's too much debate. But at least where we
12 could find some consensus of opinion around various issues
13 like the reliability questions, the verification question; a
14 number of pursuits that we could kind of request by
15 resolution or some other method to have the University
16 explore. That would be also of interest.

17 Madam Chair, I appreciate this hearing. I didn't
18 intend to spend quite as much time as I did. I learned an
19 awful lot. Too bad they didn't have this discussion when I
20 had my resolution, because it would have been very helpful, I
21 think.

22 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: I certainly do appreciate you
23 staying and the interest you've taken and the questions you
24 have raised.

25 Senator Rosenthal.

26 SENATOR ROSENTHAL: Let me just make a couple of
27 personal observations.

28 If I had my choice, I would suggest that the

1 University is probably not the one to do the oversight. But
2 that not being necessarily possible at this time, it seems to
3 me that we ought to in some way declare the legislative
4 intent that the Legislature and the Regents need to have
5 improved oversight of the laboratories' activities that
6 requires the Regents to establish a nuclear weapons oversight
7 committee which shall be responsible for reporting to the
8 extent possible permitted by federal law information
9 concerning the nuclear weapons development programs of
10 Livermore and Los Alamos to the Regents and to the
11 Legislature.

12 It seems to me that unless the Legislature is
13 satisfied at some point that the job is being done well, then
14 we will not do anything about it. While it's sometimes
15 difficult to say we are overseeing their budget and it may be
16 harmful to students, sometimes that gets attention much more
17 quickly than anything else we could do.

18 I think we should also require as part of the
19 resolution an environmental impact report for any nuclear
20 weapons designed by a testing project to also contain a
21 detailed statement setting forth all possible adverse
22 environmental consequences of the use or deployment of those
23 nuclear weapons and we ought to have an urgency clause on
24 that so that, again, the Regents and the Legislature would be
25 informed about what's taking place.

26 We require environmental impact reports on all kinds
27 of other things. You can't construct a prison in downtown
28 Los Angeles without that requirement and we're talking about

1 something which is certainly much more significant.

2 So, it seems to me that at least we should have a
3 couple of spot bills introduced to move in this particular
4 direction. I'm certain there will be no shortage of
5 positives for those kinds of issues.

6 CHAIRPERSON WATSON: Thank you so much, Senator
7 Rosenthal.

8 I think he states the case well. The Committee has
9 been pondering as to which direction it should take. I'd
10 like in the future -- whether near or far -- to reconvene a
11 similar group to discuss what you see are the environmental
12 effects of continuation of contracting with the Department of
13 Energy.

14 I am not satisfied that we touched on it hardly at
15 all today. I am not satisfied that the University has shown
16 any sensitivity to its social responsibility in that regard.
17 Therefore, I think the suggestions that came from Senator
18 Rosenthal might have their place.

19 In this last panel I heard about the Advisory
20 Committee. I heard that you had a Health, Safety and
21 Environmental Advisory Committee. But those are committees
22 that have been established by the University. I think maybe
23 it's now time that we look at the Legislature establishing
24 committees. Certainly not to be composed of legislators, but
25 to be composed of lay people with the expertise and probably
26 some without that could give advice and could have a base for
27 understanding what happens with these laboratories.

28 The reason why I think maybe lay people, too, is

1 because we need that balance; we need the people to be
2 represented.

3 I do not want to pretend that we are the best
4 experts, legislators. But who we are are policymakers and
5 who we are are people who must hold some kind of
6 accountability to the constituency out there. I think who we
7 are are people who need to have a better base for making
8 decisions. Therefore, we felt it was necessary to convene
9 all of you here today.

10 I want to commend and congratulate every single
11 panel. I think you've all been stellar. I think the debate
12 has been intellectual, it has been informative and it
13 certainly is not conclusive.

14 I am glad to know that the University allows the
15 kind of dissent that we heard here. That ups the esteem in
16 which I hold you.

17 I'm a graduate of the University of California. I
18 think it's the finest institution in the world. That is the
19 reason why I'm concerned about our policies. I'm concerned
20 that the University feels that they are in a position to
21 continue in that light that necessarily grows up when you're
22 into this kind of contract; that if you really feel that
23 there are questions that need to be raised by the academic
24 community, you ought to be raising them.

25 With the amount of expertise that we have in the UC
26 system, I would hope that that would be the place where the
27 inquiry would begin. I would hope that that would be the
28 place where scientists of the University and the

1 administration would say: Is it our mission to continue the
2 arms struggle or is it our mission to provide for you the
3 best scientific input with social responsibility?

4 I'm looking for that kind of balance and I'm
5 thinking that you've created a world with the laboratories
6 and this world is going to go on and so you must supply the
7 Department of Energy and the Regents with the information
8 that will continue the world in which you live. I'm a bit
9 troubled by that. Because I do think that you in academia
10 and we in the Legislature have a responsibility to say, let
11 us raise some other questions.

12 So, I think that's what today has been all about.
13 We have raised other questions. We have the input from the
14 University as to how they go about maintaining the scientific
15 research and development that they do. I think the whole
16 question of reliability was probably addressed earlier in the
17 day and I think that I'm not convinced that testing needs to
18 continue based on the reliability factor. I'm not so sure if
19 the University of California ought to be involved in the
20 testing.

21 I think it's legitimate to have the University of
22 California involved. I think there's a public service there.
23 I do think the caliber of people that get involved with the
24 laboratory is far superior of probably what they're doing in
25 other institutions, but I don't know if the testing aspects
26 ought to be a part of that.

27 This is information that all of us will have to
28 admit we're not that familiar with. We certainly have our

1 feelings towards it.

2 So, I see this as a beginning of the dialogue.
3 Senator Rosenthal laid out some paths that we might take.
4 We'll probably discuss these spot bills that he speaks of in
5 the Committee and with our colleagues that are not on the
6 Committee as to whether we need to proceed with them or not.
7 But that gives you some idea of the thinking of the
8 Committee.

9 I certainly want to thank all of the people who are
10 part of the Southern California Federation of Scientists and,
11 in particular, John Bachar, Professor of Math at Cal State
12 Long Beach, who brought the concept to my office and to the
13 Committee, along with his colleagues. They have worked
14 diligently and hard to get all of you here.

15 I think this has been a very successful day and I
16 guess a very beneficial use of the time on both sides, the
17 Committee and the witnesses.

18 So, I thank you and at four minutes to 5:00 we're
19 going to adjourn. I would hope that those from the UC system
20 would address the proposals as you heard them described by
21 Senator Rosenthal to my office in writing as we discuss
22 whether we want to pursue them or not.

23 So, I thank all of you for coming. I appreciate the
24 kind of intelligent testimony we had here. This will not be
25 the last of this kind of hearing.

26 With that, the Health and Human Services Committee
27 forum is adjourned.

28 (Thereupon the hearing before the Senate Committee

on Health and Human Services was adjourned at 4:58
p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, EILEEN JENNINGS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the
foregoing hearing was reported in shorthand by me, Eileen
Jennings, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
California, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or
attorney for any of the parties to said hearing nor in any
way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
11th day of March, 1987.


EILEEN JENNINGS
Certified Shorthand Reporter
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